

LAST WEEK'S
AVERAGE DAILY SALE
439,000

No 63,198

Why did Ben Johnson prefer disgrace to defeat?

As Ben Johnson returned to Toronto last night after his fall from Olympic grace the world of athletics, still incredulous, began asking the crucial questions. Why on earth did he do it? Why take such a risk if as most experts believe, he was bound to be caught? Why would such an experienced sportsman put in jeopardy not only his running career but also the rich rewards the future held out to him from sporting business deals? John Goodbody, Sports News Correspondent of *The Times* and co-author of our award-winning investigations into the dangers of anabolic steroids, examines the questions and theories.

Ben Johnson, who arrived in Toronto last night after leaving Seoul in disgrace, had earlier arrived in New York tired and red-eyed. He braved a crowd of 150 reporters and television crews at New York's John F. Kennedy Airport and was escorted by police straight to a car.

He is a simple, unsophisticated man from humble beginnings in Jamaica. His sister makes him appear monosyllabic and shy. But he has travelled the world, he realizes his worth, he has enjoyed his celebrity status in Canada and Jamaica. His crime cannot be excused by stupidity or ignorance. So did he act for financial reward?

He wanted not only the gold medal but also the enormous financial benefits from endorsements and advertising. As Olympic champion and world record-holder, he could command increased fees, adding up to perhaps £5 million over the next four years, to enhance his already lavish lifestyle. He is having a £450,000 house built in Toronto, and he drives a £100,000-plus Ferrari.

Was he so obsessed with the money that came with victory that he was prepared to pay any price?

The commitment to winning in any event is important — he won the world championship last year — but the commitment to winning the Olympic title is even greater. It was this incentive, the glory as well as the money, that seems to have been his motive.

Did he believe that Stanozolol, the anabolic steroid he used to improve his power, was undetectable? Unlikely with all the warnings, public and private — especially in Canada with its good record of fighting drug abuse — he must have known that it was detectable. But he obviously hoped to avoid being found positive either by using a masking drug; undergoing a course of diuretics to flush the traces of the hormone drug out of his kidneys; or stopping taking it long enough before the race that the evidence would have disappeared at the time of the analysis.

Accepting that he was aware of the dangers, did he simply get his timing wrong?

This is "not inconceivable", according to Dr Robert Dugal, the

Canadian member of the International Olympic Committee medical commission. There is a difference in the detectability of hormone drugs according to their type and whether they are taken by oral means or injected. It can take from three to seven weeks for a course of steroids to be cleared from the body.

Was it one last, despairing attempt to rediscover his form after his two defeats in Europe on August 17 and 21?

That has to be a credible theory. He was very disappointed to be beaten by Carl Lewis and Calvin Smith.

Did he take a small sample of Stanozolol as a last-minute booster before the 100 metres final to give him extra aggression and fire, perhaps thinking a minute

sample would escape detection? Unlikely. Anabolic steroids are a body-building drug used to train to increase muscular body weight and recover more quickly from intensive exercise. Although they do engender aggression, this would occur only after a long period on a relatively high dosage of drugs. For a temporary lift, a stimulant like amphetamines which elevate the mood and sharpen the reflexes of an athlete. They are also banned by the IOC.

Did he feel he could get away with drug-taking at the Olympics? He knew that some promoters of international meetings reached agreement with athletes that they would not be tested or that they would be supplied with "clean" samples. He may have thought he

could have enjoyed similar immunity at the Olympics. Did he think he was too big an international star to be thrown out of the Olympics? If he did, he was sadly mistaken. The IOC has a zeal to stamp out the drug-takers; in fact, it banned two Bulgarians who had won weightlifting gold medals last week. The bigger the victim, the greater its determination to be seen to be acting strongly.

Was Johnson a pawn in the hands of his advisers? Many professional sportsmen lose independence when they become tied to agents. Johnson may have also felt the pressure to succeed from his manager and coach and perceived an obligation to win by any means possible.

Tougher drug testing for UK athletes

School sports teams face random checks

By Peter Davenport

New measures to combat and detect drug abuse in British sport are to come into effect next week. Sports Council officials who have drawn up the programme say it will put Britain in the lead in the battle against the use of performance-enhancing substances.

Up to 300 independent sampling officers are to be recruited and trained at centres at London, Loughborough and Leeds to take urine samples from sports men and women. The Sports Council will also expand its random testing of athletes in out-of-competition periods when they could use banned drugs such as the anabolic steroids which Ben

Johnson, the disgraced Canadian sprinter, is alleged to have taken, to increase the effects of training.

The Sports Council is also talking to the governing bodies of sports about expanding the testing to cover more school events. It already tests at some English schools' championship events.

The programme is intended to make sportspeople who may be tempted to use drugs.

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uncertain that they will escape detection even in training.

Miss Michelle Verroken, drug control officer for the Sports Council, said: "The ultimate aim is to eradicate drug abuse from sport and what we are doing here is creating a deterrent to those who may be considering using drugs that they could be tested at any time and that it is simply not worth the risk."

Miss Verroken said anabolic steroids could prove fatal. "Some athletes take them in mega-doses, between three and 10 times what would be a therapeutic dose. It can lead to liver tumours, increased cholesterol levels in the blood and also affect the sex organs. In children, they are likely to cause irreversible stunting of growth."

Some elements of the Sports Council programme were disclosed earlier this year. The details which were leaked unofficially in Leeds yesterday were confirmed later by officials in London. The three centres for the training of sampling officers will become formally operational on Saturday.



Security officers and officials surrounding the Canadian sprinter Ben Johnson as he arrived at John F. Kennedy airport in New York yesterday after failing an Olympics drugs test.

Alton calls for ceasefire as top Democrats attack Owen

By Richard Ford and Martin Fletcher

Mr David Alton, the dissident Democrat MP, appealed yesterday for an end to the vilification of Dr David Owen, as his party launched a fresh onslaught against the SDP leader.

Lord Jenkins of Hillhead told the Democrats' conference in Blackpool that he was probably wrong to have handed Dr Owen the leadership of the SDP in 1983.

Mr Ian Wigglesworth, the party's president, ridiculed the idea of doing deals with the Owenites. "Dr Owen and his friends have made their bed

and they must lie in it", he said.

However, as Mr Wigglesworth was making his keynote speech to the conference, Mr Alton appealed for an end to the slanging match. He said Mrs Thatcher would be the only beneficiary of continuing division.

Today, Mr Alton will join Mr John Cartwright, the SDP president, at a fringe meeting calling for reconciliation between the two feuding parties.

The Democrats unequivocally rejected civil nuclear power yesterday, directing the

party's policy committee to draw up a paper on closing down all nuclear power stations.

The move is a strong signal that the party is serious about its Green stance, but will cause significant embarrassment to Mr Robert MacLennan, the former joint leader who has the Dounreay nuclear power station in his constituency. He had previously insisted that the Liberals must accept the case for nuclear power if he were to support merger.

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Thatcher gives support to war on pollution

By Nicholas Wood, Political Correspondent

The Prime Minister last night warned that the well-being of the earth's inhabitants may be at risk from pollution.

In the most graphic words she has ever used on the issue, Mrs Margaret Thatcher said it was possible that modern technology had unwittingly triggered "a massive experiment with the system of the planet itself".

She called for more research to identify more precisely the nature of the threat and said that the Government would have to consider the wider policy implications in areas such as energy production, fuel efficiency and reforestation.

And she made clear that once cause and effect had been properly established she was prepared to take decisive action to protect the environment.

The Prime Minister, who until now has been widely regarded as a sceptic on the issue, said that protecting the balance of nature was "one of the great challenges" of the rest of the century.

Her scenario, putting global pollution high on the political agenda, will delight environmentalists and the growing number of Tory backbenchers who want the Government to give a greenish tinge to its free-enterprise policies.

Her remarks also indicate that Mrs Thatcher recognizes that the electorate is becoming increasingly concerned about the threat to the planet's ecosystem and is determined that she will not be outflanked on the matter by her political opponents.

Earlier this week, Mr Paddy Ashdown, the leader of the Social and Liberal Democrats, made the green vote one of his

key priorities in the campaign to rebuild his party's support. Labour, too, is paying more attention to environmental matters.

Mrs Thatcher, who was addressing an audience of 180 scientists, doctors, diplomats and senior Civil Servants at the annual dinner in London of the Royal Society, of which she is a fellow, said that engineering and science had brought great benefits. However, by releasing vast amounts of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere at the same time as great tracts of forest were being cut down, modern society was disturbing the earth's atmosphere.

Mrs Thatcher identified the greenhouse effect, the hole in the ozone layer detected over the South Pole and acid rain as the three main dangers to the well-being of the planet.

Mrs Thatcher said that the possible threat to human life posed by the greenhouse effect — the warming of the earth's atmosphere as a result of an accumulation of gases such as carbon dioxide leading to melting of the polar ice caps — had been brought home to her at the Commonwealth Conference in Vancouver last year.

The President of the Maldives Islands had reminded the gathering that the highest part of his country, with a population of 177,000, was only six feet above sea level.

"We need to identify particular areas of research, which will help to establish cause and effect."

We need to consider in more detail the likely effects of changes within precise timescales. And to consider the wider implications for policy."

INSIDE

THE TIMES PRESSPASS

● Application forms for Presspass, which will enable students to purchase *The Times* at half price, appear today on page 10

WIN £234,000

Portfolio PLUS Accumulator

● There was one winner of yesterday's £4,000 daily prize (see page 3), so the Portfolio Accumulator stands at £234,000. Prices: page 29

Record for Christies

Christies International, the art auction house, made a record £20.6 million profit in the first six months of 1988.

Group auction sales rose from £316 million to £347 million in the six months to June. Page 25

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Trade deficit narrows

Britain's trade deficit narrowed sharply last month and the figures were greeted with considerable relief in the City.

The Chancellor, Mr Nigel Lawson, in West Berlin for the International Monetary Fund and World Bank meetings, warned not to read too much into one month's figures, but the City now believes base rates do not need to rise from their present 12 per cent level.

The current account deficit dropped to £1.31 billion as imports fell. Although this was the second biggest deficit on record, it was down on the £2.15 billion figure for July. The FT-SE 100 index, down by 13 points before the figures, closed 15.3 points higher at 1,808.0.

Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, reacted to the trade figures, describing Mr Lawson as "a triple failure" for pursuing economic policies which are leading to a £12 billion trade gap plus higher interest rates and higher inflation.

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Gibraltar witness 'confused'

From Tony Dawe Gibraltar

A third witness who gave evidence to Thames Television's *Death on the Rock* programme about the way the SAS killed three IRA terrorists in Gibraltar admitted yesterday that she might have been "confused" about part of her story.

Miss Dian Tracey told the inquest here that she saw a man shoot one of the terrorists, Sean Savage, in the back as he was running away. He

had given no warning. She said the man had a gun in his left hand. Savage fell with his feet towards the town.

Mr Michael Hucker, representing the SAS soldiers, told her that the two soldiers who shot Savage were both right-handed and that all the evidence showed he had fallen the other way.

Agreeing that she might have been confused, Miss Tracey nevertheless insisted that Savage was running away.

The inquest also heard a

claim yesterday from an electronics expert that the terrorists would have been unable to detonate a bomb in the car they had left in Gibraltar at the time they were shot.

Dr Michael Scott, a Dublin lecturer called on behalf of the terrorists' families, also claimed that the evidence of Mr Alan Feraday, a Ministry of Defence forensic scientist, revealed "ignorance of his subject".

Full report, page 5

Hampton Court restoration begins next week

By Alan Hamilton

A team of master craftsmen will move into Hampton Court Palace on Monday to begin restoration of the south side of Fountain Court which was destroyed by fire two and a half years ago. The work will take three years and will cost the taxpayer between £10 and £12 million.

The Government's Property Services Agency, which looks after royal palaces, has salvaged every scrap of the original building, conducted meticulous surveys, invited tenders and whittled down the 32 applicants to a company able to undertake the highly specialized work.

Public contracts worth more than £710,000 have now to be offered throughout the European Commu-

nity. However, no foreign firm applied and the job has been won by James Longley, a contractor based at Crawley, West Sussex.

Mr Graham Baird, deputy managing director of Longleys, said yesterday that his company had won the contract because it had access to a large pool of specialist carpenters and plasterers capable of restoring the damaged wing to Sir Christopher Wren's original design, and had experience of other important restoration works, including the Temperate House at Kew Gardens and Battle Abbey in Sussex.

Next week Longleys will move in to set up a joinery workshop on the site. Much of the original timber remains, but is charred and needs restoration.

New king and queen post trusses are needed for the roof area; as in Wren's time, they will be made and assembled on the ground to check for fit before being hoisted into position.

The Property Services Agency is scouring the country for expert carvers to reproduce the intricate Grinling Gibbons carving in the interior of the fire-damaged William III staterooms. Specialist gliders are also being recruited, and English Heritage will restore the magnificent Verrio painted ceiling.

Experts, including the National Trust and the Victoria and Albert Museum, have been consulted on the work, which is the biggest historical restoration project since the fire which destroyed part of York Minster. Every

scrap of charred wood and other detritus of the blaze has been meticulously collected and catalogued: some will be used for restoration, others will go to museums.

Architects led by Mr Michael Fishlock of the PSA have made over 750 drawings of the Wren building in preparation for its rebuilding. Their chief problem so far has been in drying out the structure after its soaking by thousands of gallons of firemen's water. It is now deemed dry enough for work to begin.

It will take three years for the builders to finish their work, and a further year for the rooms to be fitted out, largely with their original paintings, tapestries and furniture. The palace will remain open to the public.

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NEWS ROUNDUP

Jeweller charged with kidnapping

Willy Schroyens, a Belgian jeweller, has been charged with the kidnapping of Mr Walid al-Humaidh in Britain last week and will stand trial in the next few months, the Belgian police said yesterday.

Mr Schroyens surrendered to police in Antwerp last Sunday. He told them he organized the abduction because Mr al-Humaidh owed him money, a spokesman in the town of Mechelen, where the jeweller is being held, said.

British police freed Mr al-Humaidh, a Kuwaiti businessman, last Friday after his kidnappers had demanded £1 million ransom. Two other Belgians, Eddy Doucet aged 31, and Danielle Peumans, aged 41, have been remanded in custody at Northampton, charged with abduction.

The Belgian spokesman said Mr Schroyens had left Britain before the police swooped on the house in London where Mr al-Humaidh was being held.

Classroom condoms

A West Yorkshire metropolitan council has approved the sale of contraceptives in schools. The move by the education committee of the Halifax-based council was in response to a request by the local Aids advisory committee. But the final decision on whether vending machines will be installed in secondary schools in rooms used only by pupils aged at least 16 will have to be made by the school governors. Mr David Helliwell, education committee chairman, said: "Many people may object on religious and moral grounds but this is a real health matter and deserves our backing in principle."

Assault by broker

A City broker was yesterday ordered to pay £300 compensation to a British Rail assistant station manager he punched after a lunchtime drinking session. Anthony Cooney, aged 23, of Thorpe Bay, Essex, who earns £20,000 a year, was given a four months' prison sentence, suspended for 12 months, and ordered to pay £250 costs. The judge, Mr Recorder Jeffries, condemned the "new breed of hooligans" emerging from the City. The court was told that Cooney assaulted Mr Nigel Schofield at Fenchurch Street station after a lunch break lasting from 1.30 to 4pm.

Injunction refused

The High Court has refused to grant an injunction against Hull University to prevent its officers from dismissing Mr Edgar Page, a philosopher, who refused to accept redundancy or relocation under rules introduced by the Government this year. Mr John Akker, deputy general secretary of the Association of University Teachers, said: "Lord Justice Robin Old said that the case was outside the jurisdiction of the courts and he would therefore pass the case to the Visitor of the university, the president of the Privy Council, for review."

Architects' choice

A new county court at Truro, Cornwall, is named Building of the Year today by the Architects' Journal, placing it on a par with the Burrell Museum, Glasgow, and the Lloyd's building in the City of London, both previous winners of the accolade. The £3.7 million court was commissioned, and the project was managed, by the Property Services Agency Directorate of Civil Accommodation. It was designed by Evans and Shaw, the architects. Mr Peter Carolin, editor of the journal, said yesterday: "Few buildings today are so beautifully detailed and immaculately crafted as this court."

Tornado sale prelude to £1.5bn order by Malaysia

By Michael Evans, Defence Correspondent

British industry was given a major boost yesterday after an agreement signed in London to supply defence equipment to Malaysia.

Mrs Thatcher and Dr Mahathir Mohamad, the Malaysian prime minister, signed a memorandum of understanding which is expected to lead to contracts worth about £1.5 billion.

The major contract will include 12 Tornado ground attack fighters, built by British Aerospace.

The deal, which has yet formally to be agreed, will bring the total number of Tornado orders to more than 1,000.

At present 933 Tornados have been ordered. Apart from the three countries involved in building Tornado (Britain, West Germany and Italy), all of which have ordered the fighter for their air forces, there have been major purchases by Saudi Arabia.

The Saudi Government bought 72 of the aircraft in a £5 billion package two years ago and are now in the process of buying 48 more under the £10 billion deal signed in July. Jordan also wants eight.

The latest defence deal was signed at No. 10 yesterday.

although no details were released. However it is understood that apart from the 12 Tornados, the Malaysian government wants to buy 48 Javelin ground-to-air missile launchers from Shorts Brothers in Belfast, 30 FH70 howitzers from VSEL and air defence radars from GEC.

Mrs Thatcher said at the signing ceremony yesterday: "This marks a new chapter in our relations with Malaysia indicating a new confidence and support for one another."

She said Britain continued its support for Malaysia's many civil projects and would be involved in some of them.

"It is a very important agreement for our confidence in one another to our mutual benefit," she added.

Dr Mahathir said: "This begins a new period in the relationship between Great Britain and Malaysia."

"I hope it will lead to even better things in the future."

It is expected that the £1.5 billion deal could be doubled over the next 15 years.

The companies who will benefit from the new agreement declined to make any comment yesterday.

Launcher caused blast



Mr Alistair McLean and Mr Alf Payne (left), of the West of Scotland Health and Safety Executive, examining the remains of the steel firework launcher which is blamed for the accident which injured six people at the Glasgow Garden Festival (Kerry Gill writes).

They said the incident on Monday night, at the end of the display watched by 75,000 people on the banks of the river Clyde, occurred when a firework exploded prematurely inside the launcher's firing pipe.

Mr Alistair McFarlane, who worked for the display team, Shell Shock, of Suffolk, lost his left leg, and a festival employee, Mr James

Todd, suffered a compound leg fracture. An inquiry into the accident is expected to last three weeks.

Mr McLean, area director of the executive, said his men had located the source of the explosion, but not the cause.

Only half the original 40lb tube remained in one piece. Mr McLean said it was too early to say whether a code of practice for firework displays, agreed with the Department of Trade and Industry and the Health and Safety Executive, had been observed.

"There is always a risk at this type of thing", he added. "It was lucky no one was killed."

Ulster border flight anger

By Jamie Deftinger
Irish Affairs Correspondent

The Dublin government was under pressure yesterday to explain why a British Army spotter plane and helicopters were allowed to fly across the border into the republic last Sunday.

The flight was apparently permitted by the Dublin government under an arrangement, confirmed last night by the Northern Ireland Office, in which both sides can call on the other to co-operate in clearing suspect devices.

However, reports in Belfast said that the aircraft had crossed the Fermanagh border into Co Monaghan to carry out a surveillance operation over the town of Clones — a haunt of IRA sympathisers and activists. A security source yesterday denied the claims and said the Army wanted to photograph, from the south, a lorry left on the border after an attack on an RUC station last week.

Councillors along the border demanded an immediate explanation from the Dublin government which said the matter was being investigated. Dublin has always said that British flights into the republic are because of navigational faults. But it emerged last night that some flights are requested by the Irish government itself. British sources said Dublin has in the past asked for British surveillance help on arms searches.

Channon urges single air control unit

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

An urgent attempt to create a single air traffic unit to control the flow of aircraft throughout Europe is being made by the Department of Transport.

Mr Paul Channon, Secretary of State for Transport, said yesterday that the concept of a single "flow control" unit had been developed in Britain and was now desperately needed if congestion on scheduled and holiday air routes was to be overcome.

He has already written to other European transport ministers and will formally raise the issue at a European civil aviation conference in Frankfurt next month. He hopes a decision on the project will be reached in November.

It will be at least three years before the scheme can become operational, however, and several countries are likely to object to giving up responsibility for any aspect of air traffic control.

During the summer peaks, hundreds of flights were delayed because of the need for each of the 11 flow control units dotted around Europe to liaise with each other before a particular flight could be given

a "slot" in the crowded skies. Often controllers could not get through to their opposite numbers along the route because the telephone lines were jammed.

"This summer showed that the present methods are unsatisfactory and that one single unit is needed to coordinate flow control", Mr Channon said yesterday.

The idea is for all countries who belong to Eurocontrol — the international air traffic control body based in Maastricht in Holland, which is responsible for some of the

high-flying aircraft crossing the Continent — to set up one central unit to collate all the data about aircraft routes and then to plan, on a daily basis, how they will be handled.

A similar system in the United States would be used as a model for the European system. Spain and Italy, which do not belong to Eurocontrol, would have to be persuaded to join.

A telephone "hot line" linking four of the main flow management centres in Europe has had some recent successes.

Welsh miners 'already work a six-day week'

By Tim Jones, Employment Affairs Correspondent

South Wales miners who have placed the £90 million Margam "super pit" project in jeopardy because of their refusal to accept flexible shifts are already working six-day weeks.

It emerged that NUM members in South Wales have for months been working six-day weeks at the Cynheidre Colliery near Llanelli. They decided to work Saturdays and Sundays after warnings that the pit had lost more than £2.1 million.

Although British Coal has denied that it has approached the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation to ask if it would be prepared to work Margam, the corporation has indicated that if the NUM does not accept its terms it will recruit elsewhere.

Yesterday Mr John Foley, of the ITC in South Wales, said a statement by Mr Roy Evans, the union general secretary, that the corporation had approached the union was "based on a misunderstanding".

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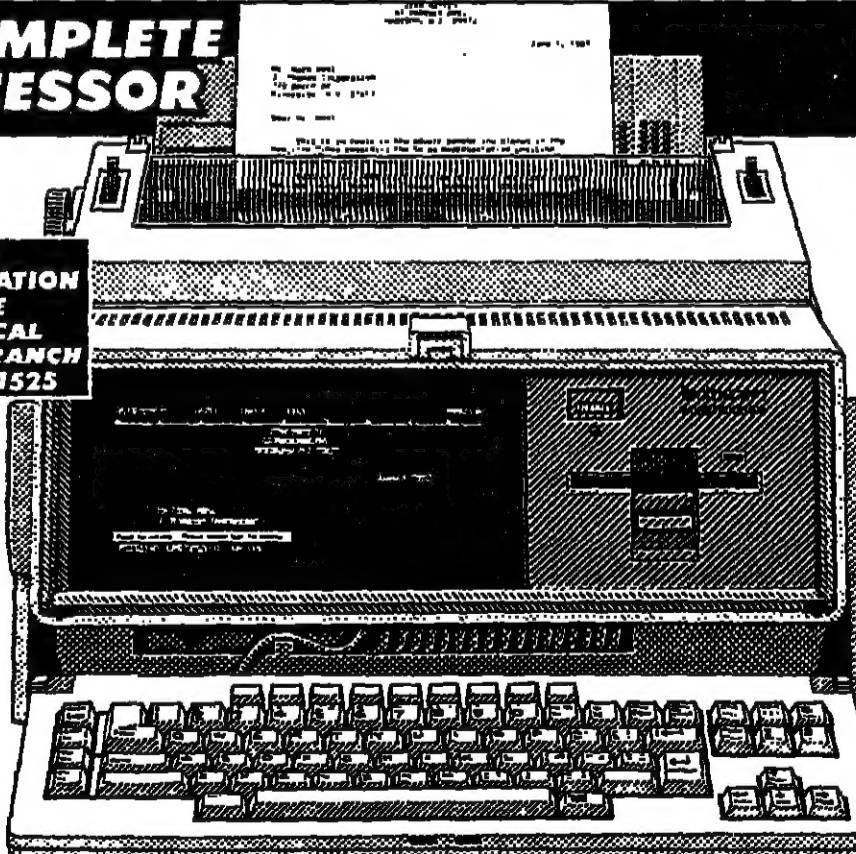
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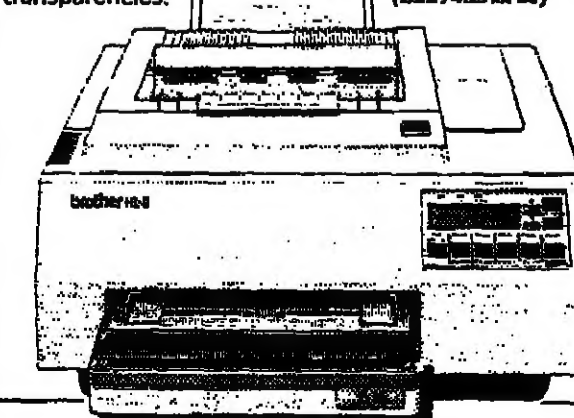
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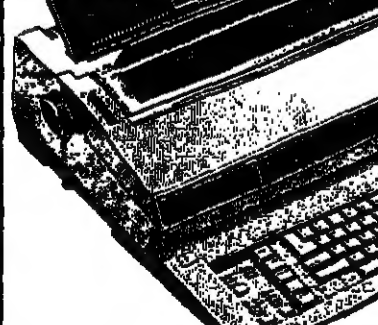
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Businessman used water pistol to rob building societies

A company director armed himself with a water pistol to rob four building society branches of £10,500 to pay debts, Huddersfield Crown Court was told yesterday.

Ian McCulloch, aged 30, married with three children, had dressed smartly and carried a leather briefcase to pose as a potential home buyer wanting a mortgage. He had then ordered the staff to fill the briefcase with cash, Mr Benjamin Nolan, for the prosecution, said.

He said that McCulloch was bearded but did not adopt any disguise and carried out the robberies with skill and determination.

However, a video film taken of McCulloch during one of the robberies was processed into a Photofit print by the police. They were then alerted by someone who knew him but wished to remain anonymous.

The court was told that McCulloch was kept under observation and was arrested while he was driving his car in Huddersfield last June. The water pistol and the briefcase were found in the car.

Mr Nolan said that McCulloch carried out his first raid in July last year when he robbed a Yorkshire Building Society office at Windermere, Cumbria, of £1,824.

The next day he robbed another Yorkshire Building Society office at Skipton,

North Yorkshire, of nearly £5,000. Last May, he robbed another Yorkshire Building Society office at Huddersfield, West Yorkshire, of just over £2,900.

A few days later he went into a Yorkshire Building Society office in Heckmondwike, West Yorkshire, intending to rob it. He asked for the manager and was told he was not available. He said he would come back later but did not return.

Finally, on May 23, he robbed an agency office of the Halifax Building Society in Market Street, Shaw, near Oldham, Greater Manchester, of £1,860.

Mr Nolan said that in one robbery McCulloch had told staff he was carrying out the raid on behalf of the IRA. However, Mr Christopher Atwood, for the defence, said that McCulloch denied ever saying that. He said he had always been polite when carrying out the raids and had never harmed anyone.

The court was told that McCulloch had not told his wife about his money problems out of a combination of stupidity and pride. He said he also owed his father £2,500 which he desperately wanted to pay back and had convinced himself that he needed between £5,000 and £6,000 to solve his immediate short-term financial problems.

He was under extreme stress

and that caused him to act in an irrational manner. Had he acquired enough money from his first robbery he might have stopped, but the first two raids did not give him enough and once he had been successful he was encouraged to continue.

Mr Nolan said that his family home at White Reaps Farm, Holt Head, Slaithwaite, West Yorkshire, was for sale and some of the proceeds would be used to repay the building societies.

McCulloch admitted three charges of robbing building societies in Yorkshire, Lancashire and Cumbria and asked for two other offences, one of robbery and one of attempted robbery, to be taken into account. He was jailed for eight years.

Mr Atwood said that his client, who had not been in trouble before, had started an office furnishing company in Leeds with another man but it had not been a success.

McCulloch could not afford repayments on the £14,000 he had borrowed from the bank, nor could he keep up the payments on his mortgage. Everything had started to get on top of him.

He said: "He had the image of being a successful and hard-working businessman but did not have the income to support that image and under extreme stress decided to carry out the robberies to pay his debts".

Driver 'hypnotized by road markings'



The car in which Sarah Chard and Louise Rawson died after being hit from behind. Dr Ivan Brown (left), who gave evidence at Bristol yesterday for Mr Harold Miller, who denied reckless driving and causing the death of the two women.

By Rodney Cowton
Transport Correspondent
All motorists could have their driving impaired by "highway hypnosis" where the monotonous effect of road markings could put them into a trance-like state, the Bristol Crown Court was told yesterday.

The claim came during the trial of a motorist who crashed into a car on the M5 between Tamerton and Bristol, killing two women.

Harold Miller, aged 58, denied reckless driving and causing the death of Sarah Chard and Louise Rawson, both aged 19 who died after their car slowed at a bottle-neck. It was struck from behind and burst into flames.

The court was told that Mr Miller's car had probably been travelling at up to 90 mph in a 50 mph speed zone.

Dr Ivan Brown, of the Medical Research Council's applied psychology unit, Cambridge, who is an adviser to the Department of Transport, said the driver had been put into a trance-like state by the road markings.

"Because of the repetitious nature of the visual scene he dropped into a trance-like state."

Under cross-examination he said: "I am claiming everyone is at risk from this repetitious highway driving". Mr Michael Hubbard, QC, for the prosecution, suggested Mr Miller may have fallen asleep, but Dr Brown denied that.

Mr Miller, a chartered surveyor of Glen Mona, on the Isle of Man, said he drove up to 90,000 miles a year. He was on his way from Cornwall, to Southampton when the accident happened on April 10 last year.

The hearing was adjourned until today.

Corporal punishment

Cash for 17 beaten children

By David Tytler, Education Editor

Seventeen children have been awarded compensation totalling £51,000 by the Government after a ruling by the European Commission of Human Rights that children should not receive corporal punishment without the permission of their parents.

Most of the cases, involving two girls and 15 boys, occurred between the European ruling in 1982 and the Government's decision to ban corporal punishment in August 1987. Each family received £3,000 apart from two families who received £4,500 because two of their children had been beaten. The compensation was paid after they had agreed to drop all legal proceedings. Six other cases, receiving compensation

of £20,000, have already been settled with two cases still outstanding.

The European ruling applies only to state schools but there are four claims waiting to be heard by the European Commission from families who have children at private schools.

Mr Tom Scott, education secretary of the pressure group Society of Teachers Opposed to Physical Punishment, said yesterday: "We think the Government should move now to ban beatings in all our schools rather than wait for the inevitable ruling from Europe which could take two or three years".

Among the cases were Nigel Maycock, aged 14, of Rotham, south Yorkshire, given

two strokes of the cane on his thighs in 1983 for talking in assembly, a girl aged six who wet herself after she was spanked in view of her classmates, a teenager suffering from a deformity of the spine who was caned eight times, and a girl aged 12 whose caning caused nightmares and bed-wetting.

Mr Scott said: "We would have liked the compensation to be higher but more importantly the families have been vindicated. They were not in it for the money."

Four of the children, receiving £12,000 compensation plus legal costs, were caned by Mr Ian Mitchell-Lambert, then head of Howbury Grange School in the London borough of Bexley in 1982 and 1983.

Computer link boost for pupils

By Our Education Editor

Schools and education authorities preparing to take on the financial management of schools, on top of coping with the national curriculum, will be able to call on a new and comprehensive computer system.

It has been devised to meet all the extra demands of the Education Reform Act. The two leading computer services for schools have agreed, in principle, to a merger linking more than 8,000 schools, colleges, and administrators with all services being available for one subscription.

Those services will include careers advice, modern language courses, budget planning and international links.

The Times Network System (TTNS) and British Telecom's Prestel Education, which have until now been competitors, hope the computer link will be ready to operate in the New Year.

Mr Gordon Jones, chief TTNS executive, said: "We welcome the opportunity to provide a set of specialist services for the education community to meet their continuing needs into the 1990s at the right quality and price. The rapid rate of change in education requires collaboration between services."

The new service, which will be promoted and marketed by TTNS on behalf of Dialcom (UK), will link all subscribers for the price of a local telephone call so that schools throughout the country will be able to communicate with each other, their local education offices and international centres.

Subscribers will be able to call up foreign texts and translations and be connected with foreign news agencies.

Careers information packages will also be available. Mr Graham Jones, general manager of Dialcom (UK), which runs the Prestel service, said yesterday: "The combined service will be both an aid for the curriculum and educational administration."

"It will help schools to communicate both with the education and wider communities and assist children with learning valuable communication and information-handling skills."

West End theatre takeover

By Andrew Billen
Arts Correspondent

Control of Stoll Moss, owners of the London Palladium and 11 other theatres in the West End of London, has changed hands for the second time in two months.

The new owners are the Australian-based investment group, Charnhead, which is believed to have paid the Bell Group more than £25 million for the 12 theatres and for Bernans and Nathans, the theatrical costumiers, and other property interests.

However, the deal means that day-to-day control will return to Britain and Mr Robert Holmes & Court, who in August lost control of Bell to Mr Alan Bond, the Australian businessman.

Charnhead has given management of the theatres to Heytesbury UK, Mr Holmes & Court's own company. Mr Derek Williams, chief executive of Heytesbury, said it was impossible to say how much had been paid for the theatres since they had been part of a package obtained through an option to buy from Bell drawn up earlier this year when Mr Bond's interest in the group became evident.

Although Stoll Moss has not had the easiest of years, with both *Winnie* and *Ziegfeld* proving spectacular flops, Charnhead was not alone in wanting to buy it.

The ownership structures of theatres are notoriously complex, involving management companies, leaseholders and free holders.

The freehold of the New London Theatre Centre, home of *Cats*, for example, is held by the English Property Corporation which leases it to National Car Parks. It subleases it to the New London Theatre Centre, which is jointly owned by the British property group MEPC and the multi-national film corporation Cannon.

The freehold of the stage of the Lyric, Shaftesbury Avenue, is owned by Stoll Moss; the auditorium by the Theatres Trust.

The following is a list of the present leaseholders although, in some cases, the company may also hold the freehold.

Stoll Moss (Charnhead, Australia): Palladium, Theatre Royal Drury Lane, Victoria Palace, Her Majesty's, Royal, Cambridge, Garrick, Queens, Globe, Lyric, Apollo, Duchess.
Maybox (British): Albery, Wyndham's, Criterion, Piccadilly, Whitehall, Donmar Warehouse.
Louis J Michael Trustees (British): Theatre Royal Haymarket, Strand.

Jeffrey Archer (British): Playhouse Theatre.
Chesterfield Properties (British): Phoenix, Comedy.
Michael Codron (British): Vaudeville.

Niederlander Group (American): Adelphi, Aldwych.
Savoy Hotel (British): Savoy Theatre.
Capital Radio (British): Duke of York.

Brent Walker (British): Lyceum.
First Leisure (president, Lord Delfont): Prince of Wales, Prince Edward.

Lord Willoughby de Broke Family Trust (British): St Martin's (The Mousetrap Theatre).

Ambassadors Theatres (Tinker, Jay, British): Ambassadors.

New London Theatre Centre Ltd (part British): New London Theatre.
Ed Mirvish (Canadian): Old Vic.

MAP International (British): Fortune.

Really Useful Group (Andrew Lloyd Webber, British): Palace.

Ray Cooney's Theatre of Comedy (British): Shaftesbury.
Rank Corp (British): Dominion.

Lord Grade and his brother, Lord Delfont, were interested.

Mr Louis Benjamin, chief executive of Stoll Moss, said: "If it had been an open thing that these theatres were for

sale I would have gone for a management buy-out."

Even with 12 large theatres now ultimately in Australian hands, the West End is still predominantly British.

Portfolio PLUS

Accumulator A ritual is rewarded

Perseverance paid off yesterday for Mr Roy Cheverest, from Dartford, Kent, when he won the daily Portfolio prize of £4,000.

Mr Cheverest, aged 62, a retired heavy goods vehicle driver, said: "I feel out of this world. I have been doing Portfolio every day since it started; it's my morning ritual."

"My wife and I are going on holiday to Tenerife next month, so it will come in very handy for that."

Rape case girl denies consenting

A girl who has alleged she was raped by three men in two separate attacks denied yesterday that she had consented to have intercourse with her first alleged attacker.

The girl aged 15 told the Central Criminal Court that she had cried solidly during the whole episode.

She was asked by Mr Edmund Lawson, QC, for a Jordanian student aged 21 who has denied raping her: "Were you not quite happy with what was going on at the time?" The girl replied: "No, I was not, sir. I kept telling him to stop, but he did not. I was crying and shouting 'Stop it'."

The girl was allegedly raped by the student and later by two other men who stopped to give her a lift after she allegedly escaped. She had travelled to London from Durham without telling her parents to see Peter Howitt in *Babes in the Wood* at the Palladium last January.

She said the student had offered to take her to King's Cross, central London, to catch a train home but instead took her to his bed-sitter flat in Lewisham, south-east London.

Mr Lawson suggested that after intercourse she had told the student she wished he was someone special like Peter Howitt. The girl said she may have told the student that because she was angry.

The trial continues today.

CTC 'no grammar school'

By Douglas Broom, Education Reporter

Claims by the Labour Party that the Government's City Technology College programme is a back door way of re-introducing grammar schools were emphatically denied yesterday by the head of the first of the new institutions.

Mrs Valerie Bragg, principal of the Kingshurst CTC, now into its third week of teaching in Solihull, West Midlands, described claims that the colleges were accepting pupils according to ability as "absolute rubbish".

Speaking during her school's first open day for the press, Mrs Bragg said that although she had 350 applicants for the school's 180 first year places, pupils had not been chosen because they were bright.

"We have a complete mix right across the ability range", she said.

"Our catchment area is mostly working class so there is no question of pushing middle class parents getting their children in. There is no way that we have chosen privileged children."

Using standardized tests of maths and English skills, the first intake at Kingshurst had scored 98 marks compared with a national average in state schools of 100.

"I am a comprehensive school head", Mrs Bragg said. "I have run a very successful

A commission set up by Mr Bernard Weatherill, the Speaker of the House of Commons, is to investigate ways in which young people can be properly trained to help the community and recognized for the work they do. One possibility is a GCSE in "active citizenship". Mrs Elizabeth Hoodless, executive director of Community Service Volunteers, which has set up the commission with Mr Weatherill, said yesterday: "Many young people are already doing this."

comprehensive school. The last thing I want is a highly selective school. Anybody can achieve good results with the most able. Where is the challenge in that?"

Most pupils getting down to their lessons in classrooms equipped with computers, videos and the latest in high technology science equipment, seemed unaffected by the controversy surrounding their new school.

Paul Hockley, aged 11, said: "I have been some people saying 'what do you want to go to that school for'. But I don't think they know anything about it. I think it's just what they have read in the papers."

Anika Butler, also aged 11, was in no doubt about her

attitude to the school. "It is really good here, it's fun", she said.

As Anika and her classmates carried out simple experiments with bunsen burners in a well equipped laboratory, their science teacher, said: "The atmosphere here is very positive and the children seem to respond to it."

In common with other staff members, Mr Wheelhouse has been issued with his own Cambridge personal lap-top computer which he uses for everything from marking to doing simple administration.

In another classroom, Mr Philip Smith was introducing pupils to the complexities of newspaper advertising.

"We are preparing them to be intelligent consumers", he said. "We are introducing them to ideas of economic awareness - it's the kind of work most schools would be doing in the fourth year now, as we are here."

Mr Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for Education, plans to have 20 colleges like Kingshurst operating by the next election. The second, in Nottingham, takes its first pupils next September. A third is due to open in Middlesbrough at the same time and plans are well advanced for at least another four.

Channel 4 plea on finance

By Richard Evans, Media Editor

Sir Richard Attenborough, chairman of Channel 4, and Mr Michael Grade, chief executive, will appeal to the Home Secretary today not to tamper with the company's funding arrangements and risk threatening the station's distinctive and increasingly popular programme remit.

The meeting with Mr Douglas Hurd comes only weeks before the publication of the Government's broadcasting White Paper and coincides with a new study which shows viewers are deserting BBC and ITV in favour of Channel 4.

The station is funded along with the Welsh fourth channel by independent television companies which contribute 17 per cent of their previous year's advertising revenue. In return they sell Channel 4's

airtime and keep the revenue. Channel 4 chiefs insist the existing form of financing enables them to plan ahead and is crucial to maintaining their innovative programming.

Because they are not dependent on audience ratings they are free to take the risks associated with providing specialist programmes and catering for minority interest.

Government ministers say they are committed to protecting the remit but appear determined to change the funding system, although they are divided on how to do it.

The increasing appeal of Channel 4 is confirmed by a "tracking study" carried out annually by Taylor Nelson, the market researchers.

Since 1983 the proportion

of viewing time devoted by people to Channel 4 has increased from 11 to 18 per cent while BBC's share has fallen from 38 to 34 per cent. ITV has slipped from 39 to 34 per cent and BBC2 has dropped from 17 to 16 per cent.

● The BBC is to cut 113 jobs in its Welsh region to make way for more independent productions, it was announced yesterday.

The cuts are the first since the corporation agreed to government requests to commission up to 25 per cent of its programming from independent producers. About 30 staff members are expected to be made redundant with the rest of the savings coming from not filling vacant posts during the next two years.

High-flyers survive market crash

Salaries still soaring for City stars

By Richard Thomson, Banking Correspondent

Bankers and City executives are still enjoying the biggest salary rises in the country, in spite of last year's stock market crash. Annual pay rises of more than 25 per cent are still commonplace although financial companies are laying off large numbers of employees to save costs.

The increases were disclosed in a survey of executive pay by Nottel Lowndes Executive Compensation Consultants, an employee services company in the City. The report says the average salary for chief executives of financial companies is £119,106, a rise of 23.4 per cent on last year's average of £96,503.

Some salaries this year go as high as £213,000, including perks such as company cars and subsidised mortgages. Company secretaries have done even

better. Their pay has risen by 29.7 per cent to an average of £67,164, while credit managers have seen their pay rise 31.4 per cent to £32,007.

To put this in perspective, executive pay in the rest of British industry has been going up at about 9 per cent a year during 1988.

The survey illustrates the risks and rewards of working in the City. For while the high flyers have never had it so good, the merely-average and the not-so-good have been dismissed.

More than 5,000 City workers have lost their jobs since the crash as falling turnover in financial markets has depressed the profits of many firms. Financial companies have been clearing out all their excess staff in a desperate attempt to cut costs.

But firms have gone to greater and

greater lengths to hold on to their star employees, the ones who really produce the profits. Hence, Noble Lowndes says, the continuing upward spiral in salaries for those who still have a job in the City.

Mr Don McCune, who compiled the survey, said: "Firms are concentrating on having the right people in the right jobs and are paying to keep them there."

The City is also more likely than the rest of industry to provide employees with special financial services, such as cheap hire-purchase loans and mortgages. A chief executive of a firm in the square mile can expect to receive a subsidy on his mortgage repayments, for example, of up to £3,800 a year.

The survey blows the lid off the myth of the Porsche as the ultimate symbol of City affluence. The true symbol is, apparently, a Jaguar Sovereign.

Accomplice in raid on Dr Pyke is jailed

The man who took part in the robbery of Dr Magnus Pyke, the television presenter, was jailed for five years at Southwark Crown Court, south-east London, yesterday.

Dr Pyke, aged 80, said he was philosophical about the attack on him which left him bruised and bound in his home.

Gary Brandon, aged 33, of Agency Close, Hammersmith, west London, was found guilty by a unanimous verdict of conspiracy to burglar and burglary of Dr Pyke's home with a person unknown on January 14 this year.

Brandon acted as the getaway driver while his accomplice pushed into Dr Pyke's west London home in St Peter's Villas, Hammersmith.

50-70 MPH

CITROËN
BX 19 GTi 16V
11.2 secsMERCEDES
190E 2.3-16
9.7 secsBMW
M3
8.3 secsSAAB
9000 Turbo
7.6 secsRENAULT
21 Turbo
6.2 secs

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You'd expect the Renault 21 2 Litre Turbo to be quick and you wouldn't be wrong. Its 0-60 time of 7 seconds and top speed of 139.4 mph show many fast cars a clean pair of wheels.

(The £27,000 Mercedes 190E 2.3-16 to name but one.)

Motor magazine's figures, not ours.

But instead of test track figures, they thought the real test was its overtaking potential.

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We looked at successful BMW and Mercedes models and made a car capable of taking on their best. Fitted anti-lock brakes as standard. And designed a front wheel drive chassis that Motor magazine called 'possibly the best there is.'

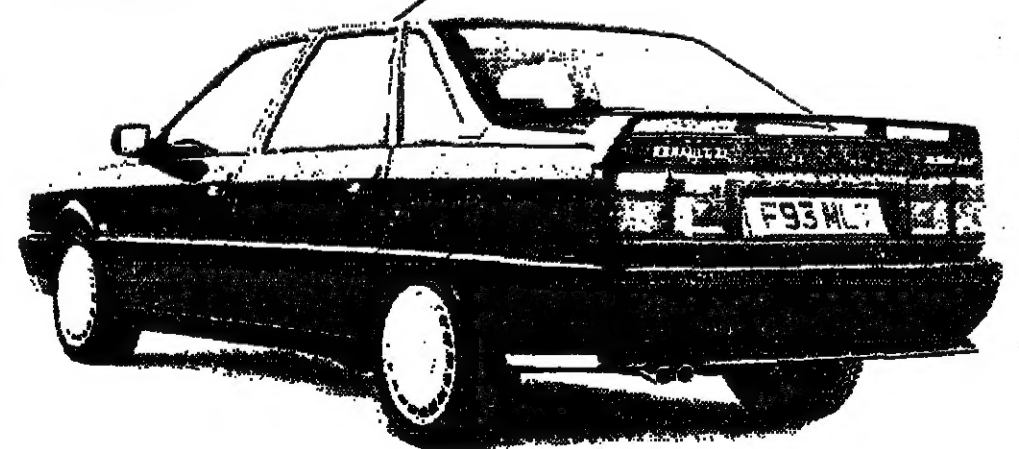
Not bad. However, it also has what car buffs call 'engine management'. (No modern high performance car is complete without it.)

For example, instantly you take off at speed the engine eases the turbo boost to limit the wheelspin. (One reason why it accelerates faster.)

Similar technology means high performance is also available lower down the range. Over 50-70 mph the Renault 21 Ti, for instance, is an incredible 9.3 seconds faster than the Ford Sierra 2.0 injection.

As for features, Motor magazine said 'If you don't like (the standard) leather, you can always have your 21 turbo trimmed in velour...otherwise there's not much else to have.'

We think in the rush for a test drive you'll overtake some very interested BMW, Mercedes, Citroën and Saab owners en route.



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Performance figures source: Motor magazine. Leather upholstery standard. Velour available at no extra cost. Price (correct at time of going to press) includes 15% VAT, Car tax, sound system and front/rear seat belts. Number plates and delivery extra. R15/M13 recommended tyre dimensions.

IRA gang could not have detonated a bomb, expert says

An electronics expert told the IRA inquest in Gibraltar yesterday that the three terrorists killed by the SAS had no chance of detonating a bomb from where they were shot.

Mr Michael Hucker, cross-examining on behalf of the SAS soldiers, asked Dr Michael Scott to imagine his mother was sitting on 140lb of Semtex in the car park where the terrorists' Renault was parked.

Mr Hucker said: "On top of the car is an aerial of the appropriate length, matched to a device. Would you take the chance of your worst enemy pressing the button to activate that device? Could you be certain the device would not trigger the bomb?"

Dr Scott said: "My professional opinion is that it would not."

Earlier he accused two key witnesses for the Government of giving misleading and non-sensical information.

The SAS soldiers said they killed the terrorists because they believed they were about to use a button job radio control switch to trigger an enormous bomb. They opened fire after an explosives expert wrongly identified a car with a suspicious aerial as possibly containing a bomb.

But yesterday Dr Scott, called by Mr Patrick McGrory, the Belfast lawyer representing the families of the dead, said he believed:

● Three steps were needed in order for the bomb to be triggered by pressing the button on the transmitter.

● The aerial on the car suspected to contain a bomb was just an ordinary aerial.

He was giving evidence on the sixteenth day of the hearing into the deaths of Mairead Farrell, Daniel McCann and Sean Savage.

Earlier he went around Gibraltar testing button job transmitting and receiving equipment.

Dr Scott said he had an MSc in electronic engineering from Trinity College, Dublin. He is a lecturer at the Northern Institute of Higher Education, Dublin, and said he was a licensed radio ham.

He had also familiarized himself with technical aspects of IRA bomb making, he said. One favourite method was to



GIBRALTAR INQUEST

include a device which prevented premature detonation. He said modern equipment used a sophisticated high-frequency signal but the further away from the receiver the less likely it was to work.

Earlier in the inquest Mr Alan Feraday, a military explosives expert, said the device could have been triggered from anywhere in Gibraltar or even in Spain.

The jury was also told by Soldier G, an explosives expert attached to the SAS, that it was the aerial which led him to believe the car contained a bomb.

Dr Scott said: "I think Mr Feraday gives some misleading information concerning radio-wave propagation."

Soldier G, he said, had talked about the power of the aerial being matched to the transmitter. "This really is a kind of nonsense phrase," he said. "His reply would make me suspicious of his knowledge about radio aerials."

Earlier Mr David John Prior, a Metropolitan police ballistics expert, said that one of the bullets which struck Farrell was probably fired from about three feet and Savage was hit by a bullet from between 4ft and 6ft.

Mr Prior said they were the only two bullet wounds with powder burns which would indicate the shots were fired from less than about 6ft.

The inquest continues today.

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Halifax's symphony of success



One man and his vision: Mr Ernest Hall pondering the success he orchestrated, and the Dean Clough Industrial Park.

By Peter Davenport

Five years ago the Crossley Carpets Mill in Halifax, West Yorkshire, once the most powerful employer in the town, stood empty, a brooding symbol of decline. The last workers on a payroll that once numbered 5,000 had been made redundant and the vast complex, a legacy of Victorian architecture and industrial achievement, served only to reinforce a sense of despair that pervaded the area.

Today, under a new owner, all that has changed and the Dean Clough Industrial Park is a remarkable success story in the regeneration of Britain's towns and cities. Housed within those walls there are now more than 200 companies employing 2,500 workers with a collec-

five turnover of about £300 million. It is a success story accomplished without one penny of public funding.

Dean Clough, with its mile of corridors sprinkled with hundreds of original, contemporary paintings, is no ordinary industrial park. But then Mr Ernest Hall, its founder, is no ordinary businessman. The son of a Lancashire millworker, Mr Hall trained as a classical pianist and composer.

He went into business to become financially successful so that he could pursue his musical interests.

He ended up as chairman and joint managing director of the Mountleigh Group and when he resigned in 1983 was told he could settle down untroubled by financial worries.

Instead he bought Dean Clough and its 1.25 million square feet of derelict space. He set about creating his vision of "a practical utopia" — a community where work, the arts, education and services to help the unemployed gain new skills lived in harmony.

Dean Clough's success has been the stimulus for a regeneration of Halifax and the Calderdale Valley. Unemployment has been halved, business confidence has soared and the property market has taken off.

Mr Hall, aged 58, married with five children, still finds time to indulge his musical passions — this week he is giving concerts in Yorkshire and next month a recital in Chester Cathedral.

Later the same day. The brothers were arrested and charged with premeditated murder. However, this has been reduced to manslaughter with malicious intent and the Fistorious have been released on bail. They are due to stand trial in Corfu on October 21.

Mr Bernstein's father, Jack, and his mother, Lore, said that they had been having great difficulty in seeing that justice was carried out.

The dead man's brother, Nicholas, aged 39, said: "The Greek authorities have refused to summon the key witness from South Africa to testify at the trial because it would cost too much to pay for him to travel to Corfu."

The witness, Mr Michael Carson, whose original acc-

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Witnesses alleged that the brothers, who bore a grudge against Mr Bernstein, were armed with scythes and a club and had made death threats. The two men drowned while trying to escape by swimming around a headland.

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Family's Corfu trial protest

By David Cross

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Read-OT system will cut card fraud

By Mark Ellis

A British invention to cut cheque and credit card fraud is to be manufactured and marketed in America.

ROCC Pattern Recognition Ltd has produced a system which can differentiate between true and forged signatures. DigiScan (TM) relies on seven samples of a customer's signature being translated into a numerical code, read by a small electronic unit.

Every code is unique and the numerical sequence, which allows for variations in handwriting, cannot be decoded into a signature.

The company has signed a leasing agreement for the marketing and manufacture with Cheque Alert Inc. of New York. American banks and traders face an annual fraud debt of \$50 billion.

Mr Michael Aldrich, chief executive of ROCC Pattern Recognition said: "It is a British invention, but it is going to America because fraud is getting less of a problem in the UK."

Loughborough University students and staff will next month be able to buy newspapers, beer and fast food using a bank card with artificial intelligence in the first controlled experiment of its kind in Britain.

The card, which is topped up with "money" to the value of £20 at a special Midland Bank terminal, is placed on a device connected with a new-style cash register, and the bill will be deducted from it.

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THE DEMOCRATS CONFERENCE

Onslaught on 'Owenite' SDP

Victim's good 'must be paramount'

Social and Liberal Democrats loudly applauded a bitter attack on the "Owenite" SDP by Mr Ian Wigglesworth, their first elected president, at Blackpool yesterday.

Mr Wigglesworth firmly ruled out for the Democrats any pact with his former colleagues. He said that it would be "absolutely nonsensical" to go back to that. "Dr Owen and his friends have made their bed and they must lie in it."

He began his presidential address with a pledge to help to build the Social and Liberal Democrats as a party of power. He said that they could be proud of the thoroughly democratic and open way in which two independent parties had gone through the exhaustive procedures required of them before the merger.

Their position in the opinion polls gave a grossly misleading impression of their true support on the ground. In 36 local by-elections in the past six weeks, about 50,000 voters had recorded a very different set of figures, which were more akin to the truth, with 24 per cent of the vote.

They were starting the fight back. "We are the inheritors of liberalism and social democracy in this country. We are the legitimate heirs of the two old parties." The party had the overwhelming support not only of the old Liberal Party, but also of most Social Democrats (applause).

"The Owenites have no claim whatsoever to the mantle of social democracy in this country. The party had the overwhelming support not only of the old Liberal Party, but also of most Social Democrats (applause)."

"Quite apart from their blatant contempt for the views of that majority, the politics they are now adopting bear very little resemblance to those outlined" when the SDP was launched in 1981.

The Democrats brought together in the party those with experience in national politics and those in community politics. The two had to go hand-in-hand if they were to succeed. In the six months since the party was launched, they had recruited 85,000 members and were well on target for 100,000 by the end of the year.

He said that they were often asked what the party stood for, and he would seek to expand on the main pillars upon which the party was built.

It was the party of conscience and reform; the party of the have-nots.

He was warmly applauded when he said that this applied "to those in abject poverty round the world. We must help them because it is right. We must help them before it is too late. We will ignore them at our peril."

It was the party that believed in co-operation and breaking down divisions. They wanted to see an end to debilitating class divisions, to racial divisions and divisions between shop floor and management.

They wanted an end to the division between the private and public sector and between North and South.

It was a party that wanted to encourage enterprise and sustain profitable business and allow the market to operate freely.

Wealth creation was the key to achieving many of their goals. But the Government had a role in rectifying market deficiencies. There was no country today where government could stand back and leave everything to market forces.

In particular, the Government had an enormous role in ensuring that there was adequate investment in new technologies, research and development, in education and training and providing the infrastructure on which industry and the economy depended.

The party was internationalist, seeing Britain discharging its role in the world through the European Community.

The party sought the wholesale reform of the political system - even greater than that initiated by the Great Reform Act of 1832. Like the nineteenth-century reformers, they were determined to ensure that the rights of citizens were protected and their power extended.

"But all these high hopes will mean nothing unless we obtain power to do something about them. We have to persuade the British people that we are serious about achieving power and capable of using it both competently and compassionately if we achieve it."

It was vital to have the closest possible teamwork in the party. They could not succeed unless they pursued a clear and winning strategy.

"Those of us who were candidates at the last election knew that the balanced Parliament strategy was a failure (applause)."



Mr Adrian Slade (left), Mr Paddy Ashdown, Mr Ian Wigglesworth and Mrs Shirley Williams acknowledging applause at the Democrats' conference in Blackpool yesterday (Photograph: Harry Kerr)

We could not persuade people on the doorstep to support us in response to the clarion cry: "Vote for us, we want to come third."

"We are not going to get back into arguments about whether we want to form a government with Mrs Thatcher or Mr Kinnock. We want to form a government of our own (applause). Of course, if the British people elect a hung Parliament, we should try to co-operate with others to achieve as much of a manifesto on which we fought the election as we possibly could."

"But that is for after the election. We are not into the business of forming pacts before, and certainly not with splinter groups who hang up and sign at their conference, saying 'Any offers?'"

Dr Owen and his friends have made their bed and they must lie in it. If they wish to join the social democrats in this new party, they will be welcome, but our task is to carry forward, as a single party, the campaigns we fought together for in the Alliance.

and but which were impeded by having two leaders, two conferences, and two organizations."

With his experience of the North of England, he had no doubt that the strategy of seeking to show the Labour Party as a different kettle of fish and a party with a different agenda was a winning one, at that. He saw no signs of its fading away.

The Conservative Party was a different kettle of fish and a party with a different agenda was a winning one, at that. He saw no signs of its fading away.

That meant that they would be competing with the Labour Party in that task. If they could get back to challenging Labour for second place, and manage to edge ahead of that, it would not be long before Labour voters in many parts of the country deserted in droves.

The Democrats must meet some difficult decisions head-on: first, defence. They had to persuade the electorate that they could govern a nation which was soundly defended but took

the lead in calling for negotiated disarmament.

They should draw up a far-sighted policy on common security which would capture the imagination of the people while persuading them that the party was not prepared to run risks with their own or their children's security.

Second, they had the difficult problem of crime, the solution to which was not just greater resources or greater retribution. "It goes deep into the sinews of our society. It is about the values within our society."

"I am convinced that our commitment to developing a sense of community and neighbourliness can play a part in tackling this problem."

They also had to tackle funding of the health service. Mrs Thatcher and her party had been leading them steadily down the path of a two-tier service.

He said that the health service had been deprived of resources and public confidence in it shaken. But he warned that they had to face the fact that there

was an almost infinite demand for resources for health and that "not even a Democrat Chancellor would have adequate money to satisfy that demand."

The party would not want the sort of system that existed in the United States (applause).

"We are not prepared to allow the rapidly growing under-class in our society and other less well off people to be subjected to second-rate health services because they can afford nothing better. That is not the characteristic of a civilized society."

"If we are still at 8 per cent in the polls by the time the general election comes, I doubt our ability to hang on to even modest seats we hold now, never mind making a mass breakthrough."

"It is absolutely vital that, through tolerance and understanding, we hold our ranks together and display our unity of purpose. I am sure that, despite differences of opinion over issues like the name, we can unite behind our vision of a Social and Liberal Democratic Britain."

The good of the child victim of abuse might mean that the abuser was not imprisoned, Miss Kay Kirkham, a member of the Cleveland Child Abuse Working Party, said.

Speaking in a debate on the need for a policy to provide protection for children, she said that all professionals must work together for the good of the child whose rights and interests must be paramount.

"In the final analysis, this may mean not imprisoning a loved but abusing parent and thus effectively punishing the child for something that was not its fault."

"If the abuse can be stopped and the child protected while still maintaining a relationship between child and parent, society may have to forgo its very natural instinct to imprison the abuser."

The debate was on a motion calling for formulation of party policy for child protection, in view of Lord Justice Butler's findings "that sexual abuse occurs in children of all ages, including the very young, to boys as well as girls, in all classes of society and frequently within the privacy of the family."

It set out four elements for the proposed policy:

● Encouraging the further use of treatment programmes for sex offenders as an alternative to prison sentence.

● The more imaginative use of current legislation and the development of new legislation to make it possible for offenders to enter into treatment programmes to bring about the necessary changes in behaviour that would prevent re-offending.

● Promoting a child-protection college, rather than the removal of the offender rather than the victim, where this is necessary to avoid the risk of further abuse; and

● Affording the statutory agencies the necessary resources in order for them to fulfil their statutory responsibilities.

The motion was moved by Mrs Jennifer Parry, who said that they should focus attention on the offender and protect children by preventing re-offending.

Since she had had a letter published about the problem in a party newspaper, she had

CHILDREN

received letters from senior party activists who had been abused in childhood.

Abusers were doctors, lawyers, police officers, judges, politicians, youth workers, churchmen, teachers.

Abused children used inappropriate sexual behaviour and had problems with attendance and work at school. They ran away from home.

"They do not want to leave their families or to see someone go to prison. They often do not tell what has been happening or they retract their stories when they are wise enough to see the devastation which will be created to them and to those around them."

"We must, for the sake of our children, find other ways of dealing with the issue."

The programmes in the motion were not a soft option.

Miss Chris Wilmore, of the Policy Committee, moved an amendment to set up a working party to draw up child abuse policies, taking the suggestions in the motion into account. She said that very few cases got to court.

"I don't want to see us focusing on the criminal courts. That is not the way to tackle the problem. Anyone who wants to put the child through the trauma of the criminal courts is someone who is frankly not interested in the future of that child."

Mr Charles Kennedy, MP for Ross, Cromarty and Skye, said that ways must be found to make it easier for children to give evidence.

Dr James Walsh, of West Sussex, a county councillor and a police surgeon dealing with child abuse cases, said that one of the problems in the past had been professional jealousy.

"It still goes on, despite the findings of Cleveland and the encouragement of joint training programmes."

"The danger of the way that the British deal with this matter is that we are always passing the buck to professionals." The amendments were carried and the motion was carried unanimously.

Delegates vote to end nuclear power

The new party made clear that it enthusiastically endorsed the old Liberal Party's commitment to phasing out nuclear power stations when it passed with cheers and by a large majority a motion calling for a policy paper to include consideration of that commitment.

Speaking in favour of the motion made clear their support for phasing out nuclear power. Mr Alan Sherwell, of Aylesbury, moved the motion calling for no more nuclear power stations to be built and the commissioning of sufficient non-nuclear power stations to permit an orderly shutdown of nuclear power stations.

It called for the future of nuclear power to be considered in a green paper, and for research money to be redirected from nuclear to alternative energy sources and for a Europe-wide nuclear inspectorate, staffed by non-experts.

He said that the amendments were peripheral to the central issue on which a decision must be taken: the future of nuclear power. All studies agreed that the total elimination of growth

in electricity demand was easily achievable by conservation measures, which had the added benefit of creating jobs.

New generating capacity need be only for the replacement of present capacity.

All energy generation was environmentally damaging to some extent, but wave, wind and solar power did the least damage. The damage done by oil and coal could be reduced sharply if the will was there.

"But the problems and costs of nuclear power are so great that it should be removed from the equation altogether."

Miss Margaret Sharp, for the Policy Committee, moved amendments 1, 4 and 5. Amendment 1 would allow the green paper to consider environmental problems caused by electricity generation using fossil fuels and alternative sources. She said that they needed to get out their stand on nuclear power but we also to sort out where they stood on other issues.

Amendment 4 called on the European Parliament to ensure the Community's energy needs for the next 20 to 30 years.

ENERGY

Amendment 5 would add experts to the proposed inspectorate.

Mr Rowland Morgan, of Somerset and Frome, moved an amendment 2 to make the nuclear industry research and pay for improved safety of nuclear plant, de-commissioning and storage of nuclear waste.

Mr Alan Sykes, of Stockton South, moved amendment 3 for a moratorium on the commissioning of further nuclear power stations until nuclear power had been proved safe and commercially viable in comparison with other forms of generation.

He said that it was important to be clear that the motion was to end nuclear generation. It had been said that there was a moral dilemma in nuclear waste, but there was also a moral dilemma in de-forestation, in Aberfan, in using coal products.

Miss June Greenwell, of Morecombe and Lunesdale, moved amendment 6 calling for

the development of alternative employment opportunities in areas dependent on the nuclear industry.

Mr Matthew Taylor, MP for Truro, won sustained applause when he argued that the party should make clear its belief that nuclear power was unsafe.

Miss Elizabeth Lynne, Harwich, said: "There is no safe level of exposure to ionizing radiation. It is not a case that a minor dose of radiation gives a minor dose of cancer. Any dose of radiation can be the one that causes genetic defects."

Mr Keith Smith, Edinburgh, Pentlands, a scientist, said that hundreds of scientists were now coming to believe that there were greater dangers from invisible gases from conventional power generation than from nuclear power. More people probably died from living in granite houses than from radiation.

Mr Sherwell, rejecting the amendment calling for more research into nuclear safety, said that such research should be financed by the industry itself

and not out of the research budget.

The debate was about sending a signal to the electorate. "The signal we should send to the electorate is that we do not want nuclear power. As a responsible party we have to get rid of it slowly and steadily and in a sensible fashion."

Amendments 1, 4 and 6 were agreed. Amendments 2, 3 and 5 were rejected and the amended motion was carried to loud cheering.

The debate on privatizing the electricity industry was disrupted by a dispute over a proposed 2020 deadline to phase out nuclear power.

Mr Keith Melton, chairman of the Green Democrats, walked out after the chairman, Mr Colin Darracott, refused to allow a vote in favour of his amendment.

There were catcalls and shouts of "disgrace" when Mr Darracott said that the procedure only allowed the amendment to be rejected or remitted to the Policy Committee. "Read your constitution," he told protesters.

Social and Liberal babel continues

By Richard Ford, Political Correspondent

The party leader, Mr Paddy Ashdown, predicted yesterday that the controversy over the short title of his party would soon fade. But there was little evidence of it doing so.

It became clear that voters across the country will be faced with a "liquorice allsorts" variety of labels for the new party's candidates, leading many representatives in Blackpool to wonder if the agonizing debate had achieved anything.

Nationally and for "marketing" purposes the leadership insists the party should be called The Democrats. At Westminster the MPs have agreed it will be known by its legal title of the Social and Liberal Democrats.

Eight MPs - Mr Simon Hughes, Mr Matthew Taylor, Mr Jim Wallace, Mr Richard Livesey, Mr David Alton, Mrs Ray Michie, Mr Archie Kirkwood and Mr Alex Carlile - will use the name Liberal Democrat in their constituencies. Mr

Livesey said: "We must have some sympathy and feeling for those who have deep roots in the Liberal Party. I am a Liberal, not just in political terms but in philosophical terms as well and that is the strength of the word Liberal."

In Ceredigion and Pembrokeshire North, Mr Geraint Howells insists he will use only the word Liberal, while the former SDP leader, Mr Robert MacLennan, will be describing himself as Democrat in Caithness and Sutherland.

Voters in the Ross, Cromarty and Skye constituency of his colleague, Mr Charles Kennedy, face a ballot paper bearing the words Scottish Social and Liberal Democrat, but election literature with the title Scottish Democrats.

Mr Menzies Campbell and Mr Malcolm Bruce will stick with Social and Liberal Democrat, but Mr David Steel and his local constituency association have yet to decide.

Party told to focus on need

PLANNING

Planning must focus on need rather than demand, Mr Paul Burrell, of the Policy Committee, said. "We reject planning by market forces."

The conference voted for all substantial development to be subject to an environmental impact assessment; to improve controls of forestry; to strengthen protection of wildlife habitats; resist development in the Green Belt; and give local communities power to control their own development.

Amendments were agreed calling for an investigation of land value taxation and a two-part planning inquiry system. The main motion was moved by Mr Burrell, who said that there was a stream and a field in the Cotswolds under the personal protection of the Secretary of State for the Environment, Mr Nicholas Ridley.

"Apart from that, the Tories are little more than environmental asset-strippers."

Mr Roger Walsh, of Sevenoaks, moved amendment 1, calling for an investigation into the possibilities and implications of land value taxation.

"Fiscal control of land use will be targeted and flexible," he said.

Mr Michael Huscroft, of Walsend, moved amendment 2, calling for a two-tier planning inquiry system.

He said that the first part would decide on the type of development needed; the second part would go into the particular development proposed in a particular area.

The amendments were carried.

Mr Simon Hughes, MP for Southwark and Bermondsey, and former parliamentary spokesman on the environment, said that land was a fundamental national and natural resource. The debate showed the party's commitment to its proper use and protection.

The amended motion was carried overwhelmingly.

● Opening a debate on the need for balanced development, Mr David Rendel, Newbury, moved a resolution calling for a halt to the overdevelopment of the Home Counties and calling on the Government to intervene in the development of inner cities and to provide for a fair share of development outside the South-east.

An amendment calling for the transfer of government organizations from the Home Counties to the regions was carried, as was the amended motion.

Business today

The conference today debates emergency provisions, health care, industry, Section 28 of the Local Government Act and the "Conservative attack on the powers of Local Government".

Subscription for unwaged rejected

The conference voted to set the recommended party subscription for next year at £16.50, with a minimum subscription of £2.50 for those who could not pay more. It rejected a proposal for the unwaged, such as unemployed people, widows and students, should have their own rate of £2 a year.

Mr Menzies Campbell, MP for North East Fife, supporting the increase from £15 to £16.50, said there was little point in coming to Blackpool with enthusiasm and dedication if they were not willing to provide

the means to achieve political success.

Mr Clive Lindley, chairman of the finance and administration committee, moved that the minimum subscription for 1989 should be £4, with a £2 minimum for the unemployed.

Mr Matthew Taylor, MP for Truro, moved an amendment fixing a uniform minimum subscription at £2.50.

Miss Kay Kirkham, Stockton South, moved an amendment so that there would be no provision for an unwaged minimum subscription.

Democrats choose candidate

By Our Political Correspondent

Mr Bernard Ponsonby is to be the Democrats' candidate in the forthcoming by-election in Govan caused by the appointment of the sitting Labour MP, Mr Bruce Millan, to be a European Commissioner.

He said at Blackpool yesterday that the party would seek to make the constitutional question the key issue at the by-election in the Glasgow constituency, but would not support a campaign of non-payment of the poll tax as advocated by the Scottish nationalists.

Mr Ponsonby, aged 24 and press officer for the party in Scotland, said that the Democrats wanted a constitutional convention set up to discuss the future of Scotland and would argue for legal opposition to the poll tax.

He said that it was impossible for the Labour Party to take on the challenge from the SNP, which will be represented in the by-election by Mr Jim Sillars, because it was hopelessly divided on the question of non-payment.

He refused to predict the outcome of the by-election, the date of which has yet to be chosen, but said that he was confident that the Democrats would increase their share of the vote.

In 1987, the SDP/Alliance received 4,562 votes, 12.3 per cent of the vote. Labour held the seat with a 19,509 majority and the SNP were in fourth place with 3,851 votes.

A man at home with his party

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

Being in a minority of three among MPs, such a basic question as the party's name is hardly encouraging for a new party leader, especially when this conference is all about establishing Mr Paddy Ashdown as a national figure.

The fact that the vastest of the minority consists of the two ex-SDP MPs in the parliamentary party underlines the suspicion of the former Liberal diehards that this Johnny-come-lately leader, with only five years as an MP, is a rootless fellow with no respect for their beloved traditions.

Their suspicions are well merited. Mr Ashdown is open about his willingness to jettison the Liberals' "historical baggage".

The business about the name, though messily conducted, was the last logical stage in the process of merger before a distinct identity could be created for the new party.

But it is Mr Ashdown who has caught the mood of what is struggling to emerge in Blackpool better than his MPs.

Reactions between a new leader and his MPs are nothing new. Mr David Steel, too, appealed initially to the party at large over the heads of his parliamentary colleagues. He too talked at his first conference of a bumpy ride ahead on which he was prepared to lose a few passengers.

In the battle between the realists and the romantics, all the other former Liberal MPs sided with the romantics. But that is not at all surprising. Those who win seats for minority parties are individualists who tend to see their own patch as a microcosm of the world. Many here come from the old Liberal heartlands where the name may matter.

Conference rank and file, however, have been buttonholing broadcasters who talked of "disarray" in the party over the short title and insisting: "The MPs may be in disarray, but we are not."

Most of his fellow MPs do not bear animosity against Mr Ashdown because of his support for the short title of The Democrats. He said that he would lead from the front, they acknowledge his right to do so and they know that he was equally willing to honour the title of Liberal Democrat had the conference voted for that.

Mr Alan Bell, Sir Russell Johnston and Co are here more by what they feel that their party (which voted conclusively for the short title) has done to them. What they have yet to realize is that it isn't quite their party any more.

No one read the mood of Liberal conferences or spoke to their heart better than Sir Russell. He spoke well again in the name debate. But when he started to argue about Tories and Labour being democrats too he lost his audience.

Mr Simon Hughes, a virtuoso on the heart-strings of Liberal conferences, had to implore Monday's audience not to laugh. When Mr Adrian Slade referred to "Paddy's Party" he caused a sharp intake of breath. In the old Liberal Party such implied hero-worship would have had him lynched.

Old Liberals tell you "This is not the old Liberal Party", assuming that it has taken on an SDP flavour. But former SDP members also insist: "This is not the SDP".

Slowly, something that is



Sir Russell Johnston: Former Liberal who lost his audience

neither is emerging. Compared with the old Liberal Party it is a touch antiseptic, less cheerily anarchic, but not as quite the managerial atmosphere of the early SDP.

They want to put an end to the name-gazing. Time after time the representatives have voted down suggestions that would have prolonged constitutional matters. The mood is to get on with it, and getting on with it is what Mr Ashdown is all about. It is off with the comfortable old baggages and on with the trainers.

The nostalgia of the romantics is outweighed here by the feeling of release that at last they are free to make their party. Mergers have been a mess. But merger has also wiped the slate clean.

As one MP puts it: "The Alliance was the death of democ-

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Add to this a broad infrastructure of highly qualified nursing, technical and administrative staff and you have a centre that would impress not only an eighteenth century lithotomist like William Cheselden but also his successors in the late 1980's.

If Cheselden saw our Lithostar lithotripter in action, he probably wouldn't believe it was performing the same sort of operation as he did. He would no doubt be astonished by its excellent first time, and overall success rate, and its ease of use.

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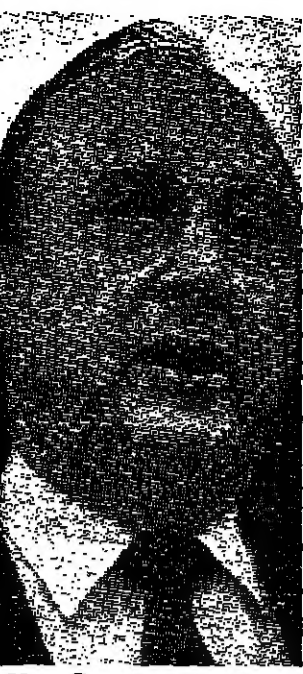
Yet despite this modern equipment, William Cheselden might still recognize something very familiar about our new Nephro-Urology Centre. Our philosophy.

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For William Cheselden all this information has come too late, but you can find out more by telephoning 01-935 7700 or writing to:
Nephro-Urology Centre, AMI Harley Street Clinic, FREE-POST 17, 35 Weymouth Street, London W1E 2JZ.

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Genscher facing UN clash over American 'occupation'



Herr Genscher: Needing all his skills to defuse tensions.

From Richard Owen
Brussels

Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the West German Foreign Minister, will be in buoyant mood when he meets his American and Soviet counterparts this week at the United Nations.

An opinion poll to be published in Bonn today suggests that Herr Genscher, the Foreign Minister for the past 14 years and a leading Free Democrat, is more popular than Chancellor Helmut Kohl, even within Herr Kohl's own Christian Democratic Union.

But at the UN he will still need all his legendary diplomatic skill to defuse burgeoning US-West German tensions over US military forces in the country, increasingly regarded by many West Germans as "an occupying power". The Bonn-Washington crisis is exacerbated by US anxiety over Moscow's recent success in "playing the German card". On the eve of

Chancellor Kohl's visit to Moscow next month, the Russians are offering West German businessmen lucrative contracts, as well as seeking to divide Bonn from its NATO allies, by playing on West German reluctance to modernize its short-range nuclear weapons.

The Americans, for their part, are actively trying to counteract Mr Mikhail Gorbachev's "charm offensive".

Unfortunately for Washington and Mr Richard Burt, its Ambassador in Bonn, these attempts to bolster the US-German relationship come at a time when most West Germans believe the Soviet threat has diminished because of Mr Gorbachev.

Simultaneously, West Germans are increasingly resentful at the US presence, even while acknowledging that it provides the basis for West German and European security.

This resentment has been touched off by a dramatic and

tragic event: the disaster at the US air base at Ramstein at the end of August. Last week Herr Rupert Scholz, the Defence Minister, set up an investigating committee under a former Luftwaffe general.

The Ramstein disaster involved an Italian flying team, and was not in any way attributable to the American forces. Nevertheless, 67 people died and for many Germans Ramstein has come to symbolize the fact that West Germany is crowded with military bases over which Bonn has little or no control because of the agreements governing the presence of NATO forces.

There is growing irritation over the inconvenience and damage caused by NATO tank manoeuvres and low-level flying. "Who really runs this country?" *Stern* magazine asked angrily after Ramstein.

Herr Scholz, a former Berlin lawyer and professor with no previous military experience until his appointment last April, has fuelled the controversy by ordering

a ban on all aerobatic displays. Critics describe this as impulsive, and say Herr Scholz has exceeded his powers in his desire to deal with the problem.

Mr Burt has taken a less dramatic path by launching a new book in German entitled *Germany and America: Partners in a Changing World*.

In the book, a collection of speeches aimed at a German audience, Mr Burt expresses his hopes for "a rich partnership" between Washington and Bonn. But he also gives a warning for Europeans, Germans included, to bear in mind that anti-Americanism in Europe tends to be matched by American resentment at the cost of bearing the European defence burden.

US-German links, based on shared values and 40 years of co-operation within NATO, remain strong. Moscow's wooing of Bonn, moreover, is not uniformly successful. Recent headline Soviet

statements on the status of Berlin have been greeted here as disappointing, and Bonn is angered by continued shooting incidents at the border, despite Soviet and East German promises.

But the tide of anti-American resentment cannot be ignored. It has recently taken the form of determined opposition by the local Christian Democratic government in Hesse against US plans for deploying a new unit of Air Force helicopters at the US base in Erbenheim, near Wiesbaden.

Herr Walter Wallmann, the Hesse Prime Minister, has urged Herr Scholz to veto the plan, on the ground that it would interfere with civil aviation at nearby Frankfurt airport and could cause yet another disaster.

In an interview with *Die Zeit*, General John Galvin, NATO's Supreme Commander in Europe, expressed his shock at the Ramstein tragedy. But he added pointedly: "We are not in any way

an occupying power. We are here as friends and allies."

General Galvin agreed there was a case for "seeing if we really need so many manoeuvres". But he added: "I doubt if that will satisfy those critics who want to stop our planes flying and stop our tanks moving altogether."

In the words of one senior Bonn official: "It is not even a political matter. It is just that we already bear the brunt of European defence, and a densely populated country like ours can only put up with so much military traffic."

Much of the task of finding a middle way between German sensitivities and American and NATO demands will fall to Herr Genscher.

Reports that Herr Genscher is unwell (he has occasional heart problems) are discounted, and he is riding high in German esteem after his successful dealings with Iran over the release of West German hostages in Lebanon.

Senate street-fighter reduced to battle for survival in Ohio

From Christopher Thomas, Columbus, Ohio

Senator Howard Metzenbaum of Ohio, probably the most liberal and certainly the most bloody-minded Democrat on Capitol Hill, is fighting for survival in this heartland state.

He remains immensely popular and should by normal criteria destroy his opposition, as he did when elected for a second term. But the Republicans have matched him with a proven vote-catcher of their own, Mayor George Voinovich of Cleveland, the biggest city in the state.

Next to Senator Frank Lautenberg of New Jersey, Mr Metzenbaum is perhaps the most vulnerable Democratic senator in the 1988 race. In trying to dislodge the abrasive old street-fighter, Mr Voinovich has built a thoughtful campaign around that most ghastly of Republican swear words, liberal. The Democrats are worried, even if the polls do show their 71-year-old campaigner still ahead.

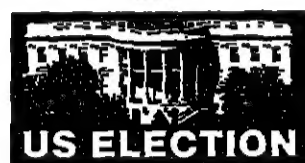
In Washington Mr Metzenbaum infuriates many colleagues. Long ago he dusted off a battery of half-forgotten Senate rules and began using them ruthlessly and repeatedly to obstruct or destroy legislation he disliked.

Sometimes he offers a deal whereby he drops a blocking tactic in return for a big political favour and sees himself as a watchdog against "special interests" legislation. At the end of Senate sessions

he stands ready to filibuster Bills to death, sometimes proposing as many as 100 amendments to a measure while the clock ticks towards the fatal close of business.

It is this obstructive record that has propelled him on to the national stage and which forms the cornerstone of Mr Voinovich's campaign against him. This rival has run a series of TV commercials accusing the senator, in effect, of rampant liberalism, which ought to be an effective tactic in large parts of this heavily blue-collar state.

Mr Metzenbaum is a popular and familiar face but



his lead in the polls does not appear to be unbeatable. If Mr Voinovich fails to win, he is expected to run for governor in 1990, when Governor Richard Celeste, a Democrat, must resign because of a two-term limit.

In Ohio, local reputation and personal style are more important than party affiliations. And Mr Metzenbaum's anti-establishment style is light, even in rural areas and in main centres like Columbus and Cincinnati, where the Republicans, ironically, boast a majority of

registered voters. The industrial north-east, however, remains the bedrock of his support.

The senator is hardly ever out of a fight. He forced a delay, almost single-handedly, in the nomination of Mr Edwin Meese as Attorney General in 1984, while an independent counsel investigated charges that he had used his White House connections improperly. Mr Metzenbaum again headed the fight when the nomination was resubmitted in 1985.

As a member of the Senate judiciary committee he was also in the forefront of the battle against President Reagan's nomination of Judge Robert Bork, a conservative, to the Supreme Court. Later he has been trumpeting around Ohio his sponsorship of a provision, grudgingly signed into law by President Reagan, requiring 60 days' notice to employees before a factory is closed.

He has not been free of personal controversy. He was attacked in 1984 for accepting a \$250,000 (£147,000) "finders fee" for making a telephone call that put a buyer in touch with the owner of Washington's Hay-Adams Hotel and he hurriedly returned the money when news of the fee became public knowledge.



Straw poll: Vice-President George Bush acknowledging the applause of supporters from a podium of hay bales after a speech in Hampton, Georgia. Fresh from his television debate with Governor Michael Dukakis on Sunday, Mr Bush was speaking at a farm barbecue.

Damage control takes priority in the campaign

From Michael Binyon, Washington

Moving swiftly to prevent any loose talk in last Sunday's debate being used against them, both presidential candidates have been clarifying their positions on two controversial issues - Vice-President George Bush on abortion, and Governor Michael Dukakis on his membership of the libertarian American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU).

Campaigning in Illinois, Mr Dukakis distanced himself from some of the union's stands, implicitly conceding Mr Bush's repeated taunt that he was a "card-carrying member".

Mr Dukakis said he did not agree with some of the positions taken by the organization, especially its attempt to remove the Roman Catholic Church's tax-exempt status, its move to take "under God" from the phrase "one nation under God" in the pledge of allegiance, and its bid to remove restrictions on child pornography.

"While Mike Dukakis and the ACLU stand on common ground on many issues, there are several areas where they disagree," a statement by his campaign said.

Mr Bush, meanwhile, campaigning in Ohio, said he would continue to draw attention to Mr Dukakis's membership of the body which, he suggested during the debate, was a liberal organization out of touch with mainstream American opinion.

Yesterday, the union ac-

cused Mr Bush of distorting its positions. "The ACLU for 70 years has had Republicans and Democrats as members; Republicans and Democrats as clients," Mr Ira Glasser, its director, said on television.

He added that the organization was not trying to remove tax exemption from the Catholic Church, and said Mr Bush had confused this with another case now in court.

It was also not in favour of repealing laws against child pornography. "That is outrageous; it is not true," he said, calling Mr Bush's remarks a "slur" and a "McCarthyite slander".

The 250,000-member union expressed dismay that it had been thrust into the election campaign, but said hundreds of people had applied to join.

Mr Bush yesterday also issued an urgent statement clarifying his position on punishments for abortion, which he admitted in the debate he had not "sorted out".

He has concluded that women who have abortions should not suffer any criminal penalties, but doctors who performed them should.

Mr James Baker, his campaign manager, said Mr Bush had spent Monday evening pondering the issue. He faced a barrage of press questions after Mr Dukakis had said he was "prepared to brand a woman a criminal for making this decision".

WORLD ROUNDUP

Racial rape story was 'fabricated'

New York (Reuters) - A grand jury has decided that Tawana Brawley, a black teenager, fabricated her story that she was gang-raped by white men. The *New York Times* reported yesterday. The case attracted national attention, with advisers to the teenager's family alleging an official cover-up.

Last year, Tawana, then aged 15, was found smeared with dog faeces and with racial slurs written on her body, including "Nigger" and "KKK" (the symbol of the white-supremacist Ku Klux Klan). Her mother said she had been abducted and raped by six whites.

Referring to official summaries of evidence, including testimony from more than 100 witnesses, the newspaper said, investigators had concluded that Tawana had decided not to return home on the day she was supposedly abducted and concocted her story to avoid the feared wrath of her mother's boyfriend over her late nights.

Britain under fire

Britain's policy on South Africa came under fire in London yesterday as being tame, in an attack by General Olusegun Obasanjo, the former Nigerian head of state (Anne McElvoy writes). The general held back from naming specific governments but it was evident that much of his criticism was aimed at Britain's "solicitous" approach to Pretoria.

But in an address to the Royal African Society and the Royal Commonwealth Society in London, he paid tribute to Britain for "sterling work" in helping to train Zimbabwean and Mozambican soldiers to defend the frontline states.

US fired on rebels

Washington - Three US military trainers fired in self defence a fortnight ago when they were caught in a gun battle between Salvadoran army forces and guerrillas, Pentagon officials said.

It is the first time that American military trainers are known to have fired on Salvadoran rebels in the eight years of civil war in the country. The *Washington Post* said the advisers fired their M-16 rifles at the guerrillas when an army base near El Paraiso in north central El Salvador came under attack.

Thaw with Iran likely

Senior British and Iranian officials held a full day of talks in Geneva yesterday on the number of diplomats each should have in the other's country, and the status of their respective embassies. The talks are likely to be completed today and to bring about a further thaw in relations (Andrew McEwen writes). Sir David Miers, assistant under-secretary at the Foreign Office, and Mr Rob Young, head of the Middle East department, met Mr Mahmoud Vaezi of the Iranian Foreign Office, and Mr Mohammad Mehdi Akhond Zadeh Basti, the Iranian charge d'affaires in London.

Smith detention hint

Harare - Mr Ian Smith, the former Prime Minister of Rhodesia, has been warned by *The Herald*, the semi-official newspaper in Zimbabwe, that he could be detained if he continues campaigning against the imposition of sanctions on South Africa (Michael Hartnack writes).

Mr Smith, aged 67, outraged the ruling Zanu (PF) Party establishment here when he told an audience in Washington last week: "There is more freedom, more justice, more honesty in South Africa than in 90 per cent of the countries to the north."

Stars join drive to dazzle stay-at-home voters

From Michael Binyon
Washington

The advertisements appear on television almost daily. President Reagan has recorded one of them. Hollywood stars have done their bit. Prominent Democrats are also speaking with pride of past presidencies.

These campaign commercials are not paid for by the Bush or Dukakis camps, nor are they urging support for either candidate. They are simply trying to persuade Americans to vote. For this election is in danger of becoming the most apathetic for years.

There is a real worry that fewer than half the voters will make it to the polls on November 8 - a sad reflection on the democratic process in a country that prides itself on the rights of its citizens.

It is also a sad reflection on Vice-President George Bush and Governor Michael Dukakis. They do not inspire. They have not galvanized the country. They are accused of being the most boring candidates in recent history, who are there because better men did not run.

This is not new. Every election

commentator complains that presidential contenders are not drawn from a wider, more qualified and diverse circle. They also bemoan the low turn-out in the United States compared with Europe.

In 1984, with a President at the height of his popularity, 60 per cent voted; in 1980 and 1976 it was only 55 per cent. Books have been written about this, and researchers have identified the forces and attitudes that keep people at home.

But things are worse this time for several reasons. The main one is the way the campaigns have been run. It is an issue-free election, whose hallmarks are blandness, vagueness and lack of political engagement.

So dangerous is commitment, so burdensome are specific promises, that the handlers and managers have confined the candidates to clichés - "good jobs at good wages," or "read my lips: no new taxes."

Issues are avoided, or reduced to a caricature of the other candidate's position so that his views can be ridiculed.

Both Democrats and Republicans believe the lesson of the Reagan landslide is that a vague, jingoistic optimism wins more votes than

over-commitment to competing interest groups. Both parties also have their own reasons for preventing free-ranging discussion. The Bush handlers - and also the minders watching over the hapless Senator Dan Quayle - are on maximum gaffe alert. Enough have already slipped through to cause real concern that any departure from the carefully vetted script could lead Mr Bush, a man not noted for verbal adroitness, into a morass.

And Mr Dukakis, having successfully welded the chronically bickering factions in the Democratic Party into a reasonably unified fighting machine, has elevated natural political caution into a guiding philosophy.

Even the long-awaited debates were so stage-managed that there was little give-and-take, no engagement between the two men. Each learnt the killer lines he hoped would discredit his opponent, and synthesized to a two-minute spiel the 20 or so likely subjects that he thought he would be asked.

Much has also been made of the "sound-bite, television visuals" campaign, in which speeches matter only for the 15-second nugget that

sounds good on the 7 pm news and the pictures that give the impression of action, energy and excitement.

This works, as the media advisers know. But they did not realize the extent to which a frustrated press, angry at the cavalier way it has been brushed aside to make way for the cameras, would get its revenge by disclosing all the campaign tricks, writing about the manipulation of the image and the candidate.

The result is that readers and viewers, told that they do not matter as participants in a political dialogue but only as a backdrop, have felt cheated. Many ordinary people have begun to display a cynicism about the whole process.

The taped disclosures last week of the way campaigns are really run from inside, and the hardboiled realism of President Reagan's former top advisers looked like a mockery of voters' naivety, and many were insulted and angered.

Voters do not like the way the campaigns are going. They are already bored with a campaign that seems to have been going on for years. They object to negative advertising - although everyone knows it works, and today's insults

are but an anaemic shadow of the name-calling of a century ago. They blame the negative tone and slick packaging on the press, and on many a campaign travelling reporters have been loudly booed as they stepped off the buses and took up positions near the podium.

In turn reporters have been so angered at being kept at bay and fed only occasional bloodless morsels, that they are now accusing themselves of cowardice.

"Instead of incisive, adversarial coverage, they have retreated into a bland and passive style of reporting," a recent commentary in *The New York Times* said. "Too often the press have functioned as merely a stenographer to power."

There is an unrealistic nostalgia among voters for the old rough-and-tumble, the days of whistle-stop tours and "give 'em hell" rhetoric.

But with today's media markets and satellite links and campaign advisers, it is crying for the wind to wish away the handlers and professional managers, the pollsters and image-makers. Instead, voters give a shrug, switch their television channel to the Olympics, and decide they will not bother to vote.

Moscow calls for arms cuts to fund nature protection

New York (Reuters) - The Soviet Union, saying threats to the environment could rival the nuclear menace, yesterday urged the United States to scrap some arms programmes to free funds for environmental security.

"We need resources to save our planet instead of destroying it," Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet Foreign Minister, said in an address to the United Nations General Assembly.

He said the traditional view of national and universal security based on military defence was now totally obsolete and must be urgently revised.

"Faced with the threat of environmental catastrophe, the dividing lines of the bipolar ideological world are receding," he said.

"The biosphere recognizes no division into blocs, alliances or systems. All share the same climatic system and no one is in a position to build his own isolated and independent

line of environmental defence."

Calling it unreasonable to impede economic reconstruction, Mr Shevardnadze said: "It is much more sensible, as we are proposing to the US and other countries, to abolish some planned or on-going military programmes and channel the funds thus released towards instituting an international regime of environmental security."

Mr Shevardnadze said that the stark reality of the environmental threat was of "a second front fast approaching and gaining an urgency equal to that of the nuclear-and-space threat."

He said that for the first time it was clearly realized that, in the absence of any global control, man's so-called peaceful constructive activity was turning into "a global aggression against the very foundations of life on earth."

In a wide-ranging speech which many diplomats said

was remarkable for its moderate tone, Mr Shevardnadze expressed concern about violations of the UN-sponsored Afghanistan settlement and proposed a meeting of the five permanent members of the Security Council with Señor Javier Pérez de Cuellar, the UN Secretary-General, to discuss compliance.

"It would be appropriate also to invite there representatives of the parties directly concerned," he said.

Appealing for a more active UN and a reinvigorated council, he said it would be useful to hold periodic reviews by the council of global troublespots.

There was also need to hold council meetings of foreign ministers, which would consider holding expanded council talks in tense regions.

"They could also be held in the capitals of the council's permanent members," he said. "The Soviet Union confirms its readiness to host such a meeting in Moscow."

Unrest in Armenia

Stiff penalties for strikers

Moscow (Reuters) - Authorities in Soviet Armenia have warned workers on strike over the Nagorno-Karabakh regional dispute that they face stiff penalties, loss of pay, longer waits for housing and reduced vacation rights.

The Armenian Communist Party newspaper, which published the warning, also revealed that a military commander had been named in Nagorno-Karabakh, the rebel Azerbaijan region which since February has sought to secede and join neighbouring Armenia.

The September 25 edition of *Kommunist*, which reached Moscow yesterday, said that the labour sanctions applied to all strikers who missed more than three hours of work on a given day.

In Yerevan, the Armenian capital, a spokesman for the official Armenpress news agency said yesterday that industry had not returned to full capacity. The latest strike wave began last week after an

Armenian was killed in clashes with Azerbaijanis.

Armenians have defied an official ban on strikes to press for annexation of Nagorno-Karabakh, where the largely Christian ethnic Armenian majority shares a long history of tension with Muslim Azerbaijanis who have ruled the territory since 1923.

In July, Armenians declared a general strike which lasted two weeks. Their latest work stoppage carries demands that the republic's Supreme Soviet (parliament) call an emergency session and that Armenians in Nagorno-Karabakh be protected.

Kommunist quoted Armenian labour authorities and the republic's trade union council as saying the strikes violated the Soviet and Armenian constitutions.

They said that striking workers absent from their jobs without "valid reasons" faced loss of wages for time missed; loss of end-of-year premiums and bonuses for good work;

loss of access to health and holiday resorts; reduction of holidays by the number of days off work; and removal from queues for receiving housing.

Together with loss of pay, the housing penalty could be the most threatening to workers, who generally live in cramped quarters and spend years waiting for better flats.

Kommunist also published a statement by Mr Andrei Volzky, a party Central Committee member sent to Nagorno-Karabakh in July after the Kremlin ruled out border changes, disclosing that the disputed region now had a military commander as well.

The statement outlined rules imposed under a state of emergency declared last week in Nagorno-Karabakh and the Azerbaijan district of Agdam following clashes in the disputed enclave in which 49 people were injured.

It said that demonstrations and strikes were banned and that violators faced dismissal.

Burmese opposition leaders unite to press for democracy

Rangoon (AP) — A new opposition alliance elected U Aung Gyi, a retired army officer, as its chairman yesterday and he immediately called for an interim government to replace Burma's military autocracy and to prepare for multi-party elections.

The call came as U Kyaw Sann, the government spokesman, said that the official death toll from disturbances since the September 18 coup led by General Saw Maung was 348. Protesters fleeing the crackdown on demonstrations for democracy claimed that soldiers were conducting summary killings.

Western diplomats believe that troops killed up to 400 civilians in the first few days after the coup.

The League for Democracy was formed by three opposition leaders on Saturday to revitalize the anti-government movement after General Saw Maung's troops cleared Rangoon of street protests following the coup.

General Tin U, another former military officer, was elected vice-chairman. Daw Aung San Suu Kyi was appointed general secretary and spokeswoman. Nine of 12 executive committee mem-

bers were also named, with seats reserved for ethnic minorities fighting the central Government.

U Aung Gyi said the group believed "that (an) interim government is the only way to solve the present crisis in the country... to revive stalled government, to reactivate the broken-down economy, and to hold genuine, free and fair general elections".

General Saw Maung has promised the first multi-party elections since 1960 but has not set a timetable.

The Government decreed yesterday that rebels, foreign-aided groups, the military, civil servants and "organizations which misuse religion" would not be allowed to form political parties.

Under the law, political parties will have to register with the Government to contest general elections, but none has done so.

The league also said it "firmly supports the general strike being staged by the government servants and workers, and urges the strikers to continue until the movement for democracy achieves its goal".

General Saw Maung has ordered civil servants, who

left their jobs on August 8 in support of democracy, to return to work by Monday. Although the Government claims that some workers are back on the job, the state apparatus remains crippled.

The opposition alliance, which has been built on the earlier National United Front for Democracy, also accused the Government of torture.

U Aung Gyi, aged 70, earlier this year sent a series of letters to the then leader General Ne Win, criticizing the Government's economic performance and suppression of student demonstrations last March.

Once a close ally of General Ne Win, U Aung Gyi was jailed for several years in the 1960s and again last month after General Ne Win's retirement and the assumption of power by U Sein Lwin, a hardliner.

General Tin U, aged 61, was removed by General Ne Win as Minister of Defence and head of the Army in 1976 and was later jailed in connection with an alleged anti-government plot.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, aged 42, is the daughter of the late Aung San, the revered hero of Burmese independence from Britain.

Shuttle captain welcomed as launch day nears



Astronaut Frederick Hauck, who will command the space shuttle Discovery tomorrow, receiving an enthusiastic welcome from Kathy Covey and Kitty Lounge, the wives of two of his crew, as he arrived at the Kennedy Space Centre yesterday.

Monsoon devastates northern India

From Edward Gorman, Delhi

The death toll in widespread flooding in north India, centred on the state of Punjab, was officially 138 last night while unofficial estimates put the figure at more than 300.

After five days of torrential rains throughout the northern states and neighbouring areas of Pakistan towards the end of the monsoon, part of the Punjab, including the city of Amritsar, were reported to be completely cut off. More than

200,000 people were reported to be marooned in the state with an estimated 1,500 villages in six districts affected by the floods.

Officials said that 37,650 people had been evacuated from Chandigarh, one of the worst affected areas, with the help of the Army and the Air Force.

In Jullundur district air force helicopters have been dropping food parcels to

stricken villagers. The agricultural department in Jullundur said yesterday that thousands of acres of crops had been destroyed including this year's entire oil seed and ground nut crops which had been submerged. Other reports estimated that 12,000 houses had either collapsed or been damaged and more than 2,600 cattle had been killed in the district.

Mr Rajiv Gandhi, the

Prime Minister, whose return to Delhi after an official visit to Bhutan was delayed by the flooding, immediately set up a crisis management group within the Government to evaluate the extent of the damage and decide what measures would be required to help those affected.

After meeting last night, the management group was told that the situation should improve in the next 24 hours.

Serbian 'inaction' prompts resignation

From Dossa Trevisan, Belgrade

Mr Franc Setinc, a Slovene member of the Yugoslav Communist Party Praesidium, has resigned in protest against the inaction of Serbian leaders over the unrest in Kosovo and Vojvodina.

In a letter accompanying the resignation, Mr Setinc said that although Serbian rallies were justified, calls for martial law and arms were pushing Yugoslavia towards disaster.

This is the first of many resignations expected in the 25-member Praesidium over political pressure which the Serbian leadership is whipping up to push through its demands for direct control over the two autonomous provinces.

The Central Committee is due to meet early next month and the crisis in the leadership is clearly coming to a head. A showdown is expected at the meeting.

Mr Setinc accused the Serbian press of deliberately dramatizing the situation in the Kosovo region in order to whip up national anger.

He recently visited Kosovo, where he became the target of vicious press attacks for his moderate statement calling for reconciliation between the two nations. Mass protest rallies have singled him out for attacks.

Botha at impasse

Decade yields little reform

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

President Botha of South Africa completes 10 years as head of government today, doggedly pursuing at the age of 72 policies that have disenchanted and estranged large numbers of whites and yet failed to fulfil the promise of reform that gave hope to many blacks in the early years of his rule.

He is certain of a place in history as the leader who had the courage to break the mould of post-1948 Afrikaner politics, told his fellow whites that they had to change if they were to survive, and proclaimed apartheid an "outmoded concept".

But he now seems to be trapped in a cul-de-sac of his own devising, unable to shake off fully the habits of mind that shaped his attitudes and actions during the 30 years before he became leader, and

depicted as a communist-led "total onslaught" against South Africa.

It was a year later, at a National Party meeting in the remote northern Cape town of Upington, that he made what has become his most quoted remark: "We must adapt, otherwise we will die".

Yet for all the subsequent talk of "broadening democracy", and "power-sharing" with other races, Mr Botha has remained wedded to two positions: an absolute refusal to discuss a transition to black majority rule; and an insistence that political representation for the individual must be through his or her race group.

The vehicle of the reform process was the tricameral Parliament, set up in September, 1984. This contained in addition to the existing all-white House of Assembly two new chambers, the House of Delegates and the House of Representatives for the Indian and Coloured minorities.

In a referendum in late 1983, two out of three whites voted in favour of the new parliament and constitution, which also achieved a measure of acceptance abroad as "a step in the right direction".

But since Mr Botha's tour of Britain and other West European countries in 1984 little has gone right. A two-year explosion of black anger led to intensifying repression and the imposition of a state of emergency that seems likely to become permanent.

More than 50 per cent of Afrikaner whites, unsettled by Mr Botha's half-baked reforms, now support the far-right Conservative Party of Dr Andries Treurnicht.

But liberal whites and moderate black politicians, such as Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, the Zulu leader — not to speak of black radicals — find little substance in his reforms.

History may be kinder to Mr Botha. Changes during his rule, which 10 years ago would have seemed Utopian to many people, include the lifting of the ban on inter-racial marriage, the abolition of the "pass laws" which severely restricted the movement of blacks outside the tribal homelands, the granting of urban freehold rights to blacks and the scrapping of much social segregation.

Israel loses Taba land dispute with Egypt

From David Bernstein, Jerusalem

The Taba arbitration decision has gone against Israel and sovereignty over the disputed enclave at the head of the Gulf of Aqaba has been awarded to Egypt, Israel Radio reported yesterday.

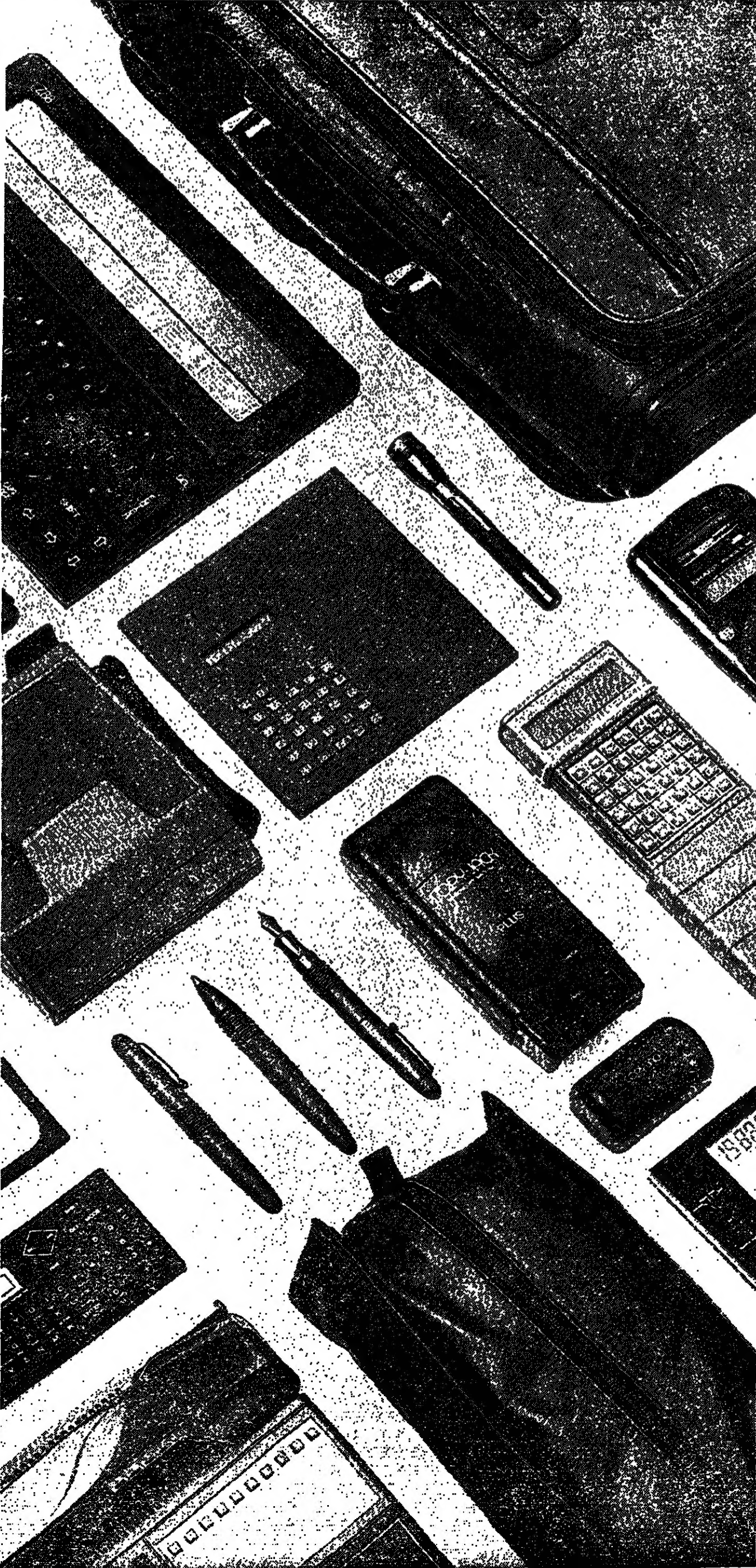
The decision is due to be announced officially in Geneva tomorrow but was apparently leaked to the radio's diplomatic correspondent, indicating that Jerusalem may already have been informed.

There had been earlier reports that the national arbitration board appointed to settle the dispute after years of fruitless negotiation, was coming down firmly on the Egyptian side.

GENEVA: The 700-yard long strip of sand has no tactical or economic significance but has been a running sore between the two sides since the signing of the Camp David agreement 10 years ago (A Correspondent writes).

The five-man arbitration panel based in Geneva, has visited the area and also has worked with old maps. Some of these date from the Ottoman Empire, and there is even one which was drawn by Lawrence of Arabia.

Handing back the Taba enclave to Egypt means that the five-star hotel and tourist village built by the Israelis will become Egyptian territory. Whether or not Israeli tourists will still have unrestricted access remains to be seen. If not, there could be another round of long negotiations over compensation.



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Noriega crackdown raises fears of 'another Haiti'

From David Gollob, Panama City

The Panamanian Defence Forces will take over more government institutions if the country's political and economic crisis worsens, officials here warned as security forces intensified the crackdown against opponents pressing for a return to civilian rule.

"There are going to be problems with health, with housing, a tremendous amount of unemployment," said Señor Leo Gutiérrez, a senior government official, said. "Who is going to control the people when there is no work? Not the Church, not the civilians. Dictatorship is the only way."

Opposition leaders, who claim that General Manuel Noriega, the armed forces chief, has already established a dictatorship, say the militarization of key institutions has begun. The electricity board, the docks, and the civil aviation authority have been put under military control in recent weeks.

"The military are incompetent and corrupt," said Señor Roberto Brenes, a prominent businessman and government opponent who predicted disaster. "We are in a downward spiral. Panama will turn into Haiti within three years."

State hospitals are running

short of medicine, maintenance at electricity plants and other state industries is not being carried out, and the country's economic infrastructure has begun to deteriorate, as a result of a cash crisis caused in part by US sanctions against the Noriega regime. As the economy languishes, government revenues have fallen dramatically.

Electricity and dock workers have put the Government under further pressure with strikes over the non-payment of annual bonuses. In apparent retaliation, the Government has accused Señor Isaac Rodríguez, the leader of the electricity workers' union, of involvement in an alleged armed conspiracy to oust General Noriega.

However, Señor Rodríguez was not among the 26 Panamanians arrested on Friday, when the Government announced that it had "smashed" the conspiracy.

To support their charges, Panamanian security forces presented at a news conference captured documents and three prisoners who confessed to involvement in a clandestine organization led by a dissident former army officer. However, weapons allegedly seized in a raid on a Panama City

apartment, and the documents did not outline plans for an armed insurrection, as the military had originally reported.

The three prisoners, who showed no signs of ill-treatment, spoke calmly about meetings in Miami in June and August with Lieutenant-Colonel Eduardo Herrera. He is understood to have founded an underground opposition organization called the National Concord Movement. Leaflets signed by Colonel Herrera, calling on the military to rise up against General Noriega, have been distributed in Panama.

There have been rumours, but little evidence, that Colonel Herrera has the backing of the Reagan Administration, which reportedly authorized covert operations against the military regime after the collapse of negotiations with General Noriega last May.

Military intelligence officers repeated charges that the Reagan Administration was behind the conspiracy, charges the detainees did not confirm or deny.

The detainees did not admit to involvement in an armed insurrection, and the most violent anti-government activities outlined in the cap-

tured documents were the "possible occupation of television stations" to broadcast anti-government propaganda.

Most of the 26 prisoners are members of the Authentic Panamanian Party, whose aging and charismatic leader, the late Dr Arnulfo Arias, was elected President three times and deposed three times by the military.

His funeral last month drew hundreds of thousands of mourners, in what observers described as the biggest show of opposition to the military regime since the beginning of the crisis a year ago last June.

The party has issued a statement repudiating the use of violence and charging that the arrests were designed to obstruct its reorganization after Dr Arias's death.

A Western diplomat described the Government's allegations as "incredible". Señor Guillermo Cochez, the vice-president of the opposition Christian Democratic Party, said: "I've seen it all before. The photographs of captured weapons, the diagrams and documents outlining a supposed plot. This is what they do when they need a pretext to imprison people - create fear and distract attention from internal problems."

Helping hands for Hirohito



A young girl outside the Imperial Palace in Tokyo praying yesterday for the recovery of the seriously ill Emperor Hirohito of Japan, who has become the focus of a diplomatic rift.

A senior Japanese politician yesterday revived an Anglo-Japanese row by hinting that Japan might take legal action against *The Sun* and *Daily Star* (Joe Joseph writes).

The newspapers last week published disparaging editorials and articles about Emperor Hirohito after the Japanese monarch's health took a dramatic turn for the worse.

But the outburst against the two British tabloids from Mr Michio Watanabe, chairman of the Policy Research Council of Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party, appears to have come as a slight surprise to other government officials who are seeking to defuse the flames.

The Japanese Embassy in London has already protested

to the two papers for describing the monarch, aged 87, as an "evil monster" and saying that "Hell's waiting for this truly evil emperor".

Government sources in Tokyo are bemused at what legal action Mr Watanabe, whose past off-the-cuff comments have landed him in hot water, might be considering.

Mr Watanabe, who got into trouble again last month for making indecent remarks about American blacks, told party executives that "there was nothing as insulting" as the papers' comments.

He added that if the two papers had correspondents in Tokyo - they do not - the reporters should be expelled by the Japanese Government.

The manager and editor of the *Mainichi Daily News*, one of Japan's English language dailies, has been dismissed after his newspaper erroneously carried an editorial on Monday grieving over the death of the Emperor.

Ban on Malay party leaders

Kuala Lumpur (Reuters) - Daulat Seri Mahathir Mohamed, the Malaysian Prime Minister, has banned five arrested opposition leaders from holding posts in their Democratic Action Party.

The move was condemned by the opposition group, already angered by the detention without trial of its leaders, Mr Lim Kit Siang, and four other officials in a security crackdown last October.

Drugs seized

Bogotá (Reuters) - Nearly 5,000 lbs of cocaine worth almost £3 million were found at a cocaine laboratory in Colombia's eastern jungles.

Vitamin alert

Geneva (Reuters) - About 200 million children worldwide risk blindness and death because of a lack of vitamin A, the World Health Organization said.

Airliner hit

Khartoum (Reuters) - Sudan People's Liberation Army rebels fired on an airliner, damaging its fuselage at Juba in southern Sudan. No one was hurt.

Basque bomb

Bilbao (AP) - Basque separatists were blamed for a bomb blast at government offices here. There were no injuries.

Mafia killing

Trapani (Reuters) - An anti-Mafia and anti-drugs campaign on Sicily was shot dead. The Mafia was blamed.

No escort

Manama, Bahrain (AP) - The first US-flagged Kuwaiti tanker to sail without an American escort since the Gulf ceasefire left Kuwait and sailed south.

Aids theory

Copenhagen (Reuters) - Danish doctors are to investigate whether China's traditional, herbal cures can be used in the fight against Aids.

China missile

Peking (AFP) - China successfully test-fired a missile from a nuclear-powered submarine in the China Sea.

Italian hunters under fire for human toll

From Roger Boyes, Rome

This is not a good time to stroll around the Italian countryside. Despite its famed autumn beauty, there is a smell of cordite in the air.

Open season was declared earlier this month and already hunters have shot several thousand pheasants, more than 100,000 smaller birds, battalions of woodland beasts, and five humans, including one aged 10 who happened to stray into the line of fire.

Now the political pressure is on to declare a five-year ban on hunting, or even to hold a referendum on the subject.

The Greens are up to their usual antics, banging tambourines and shouting to scatter the birds. The environmentalist group is very good at this, but tends to perform only after making a

prior appointment with the television networks.

Hunting is not a class sport in Italy. Indeed, some of the best shooting can be had in the copest of Emilia Romagna, the Communist heartland, with local party dignitaries.

But it is a national sport, endowed with national privileges. A remarkable freedom is given to hunters under Italian law. Farmers are obliged to make their land available to all hunting parties, and trespassing rules are suspended when it comes to hunters.

The environmentalists want to change this antiquated law and have petitioned the Speaker of the Italian Parliament for an emergency debate on the subject.

The death of Claudio Fazio, aged 10, gives their

arguments some force. He was riding his bicycle with two cousins in northern Italy beside a field of soya beans when his head was peppered with shot fired at a range of 120 yards. He went into a coma and died within days. The hunters were firing at a pheasant.

"We're deeply pained about the accidents that happen during hunting season," said Nello Adami, president of the Emilia Romagna chapter of the Hunting Association, said. "In the case of Claudio, the Devil must have been at work."

More than 50 million animals will be killed this year, and probably about 200 million birds. Since there are some 700,000, increasingly prosperous Italian hunters,

hunting means big business. The obligatory green jackets come in fashionable shapes and glossy magazines advertise sleek carbines and special sprays to hoodwink deer.

But the hunting trend is balanced by an increasing Italian passion for domestic animals and for conserving nature, apparently another indicator of prosperity.

The anti-hunting lobby is arguing on two fronts. The slaughter of birds, far more intense and less selective than in Britain, is destroying the ecological balance, they say.

Since the birds would normally eat parasites, farmers are having to spray their fields with more harmful pesticides and are poisoning food, the environmentalists claim.

The hunters concede that new safety precautions are needed, but believe a referendum or five-year moratorium would be a grossly exaggerated response to recent casualties.

Signor Osvaldo Veneziano, the national vice-president of the Hunting League, said: "To close the hunting season will not solve anything."

"Instead it will indiscriminately punish and criminalize all hunters, including the majority of those who respect the law."

He added: "We could, however, teach a respect for the current laws and also try to limit overcrowding in hunting territory."

"Hunting should be confined to low-risk areas and the hunters' mobility across farmland should be restricted."

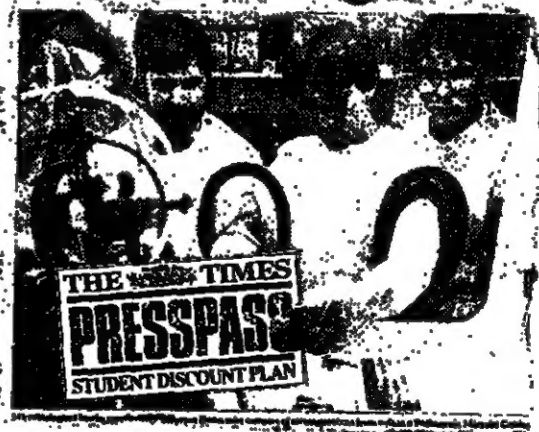
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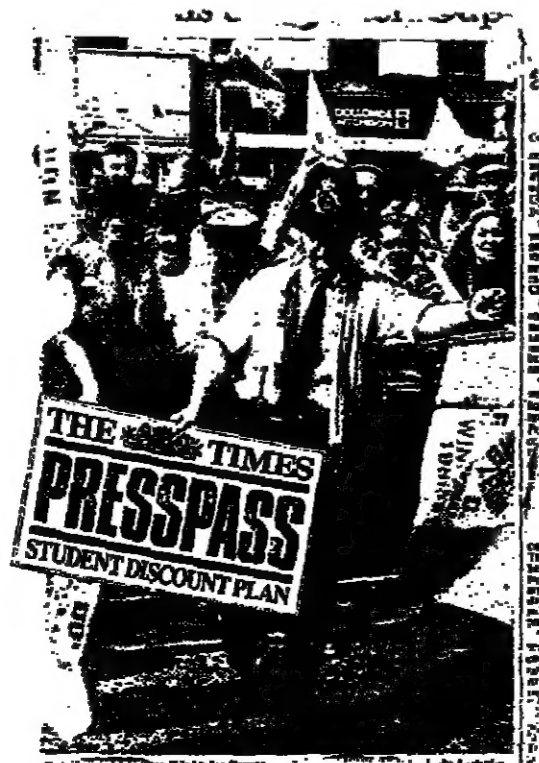
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The Age of the Great Explorers

PAST WORLDS
Part 2

With a poverty of resources scarcely imaginable, and in the face of a hostile climate, early man was able to colonize most of the habitable world. George Hill chronicles his epic journeys across the beds of vanished seas and along the edge of glaciers

The first Stone Age tribes to venture into the harsh, windswept wildernesses of the Ukraine at the end of the last Ice Age, 16,000 years ago, found hardly any trees to make the frameworks for the huts which were essential if they were to survive in that savage environment. Undeterred, they devised what was, perhaps, the most bizarre of all forms of primitive architecture, the mammoth-bone igloo.

Remains of many of these charnel-dwellings have been found in the region, with hearths and other traces of occupation around them. The Mezhrich structure, exceptionally large and containing one skull covered with elaborate decorations, might have been some kind of temple.

"A number of crude, female figurines were also found in the area of the structure at Mezhrich," says Dr Jill Cook, of the British Museum, consultant editor for the period to *The Times Atlas of Archaeology*. "Some were very stylized — little more than sticks. These figures are quite widespread. Usually they are ladies with large breasts and buttocks, with the heads absent or rudimentary. One found in Russia is kneeling and apparently giving birth. We don't know what they represent, but there may be some association with fertility."

Archaeologists are more cautious in these matters than they used to be. In the past, they might have been more than ready to confirm the common-sense view

that fertility is unquestionably what such figures are all about, and they would probably have thrown in confident assumptions about the customs of early men, based on analogies with the practices of other people immeasurably remote from them in space and time. Many of the traces left by our ancestors are deeply enigmatic, and modern research has grown more tantalizing as it has become more scrupulous in its avoidance of easy answers. Primitive man may well be more unlike us than we can easily imagine.

The people who built the Ukrainian hut were hunter-gatherers of the late paleolithic era. Although they can have had no more formidable weapons than flint blades and sharpened sticks, they hunted the mammoth so effectively that it was probably their main source of food. In some places, heaps of many thousands of mammoth bones mark the debris of hunting and butchery on a large scale, which must have involved organized community operations.

Early man was nomadic, but the effort involved in creating massive structures like this suggests a relatively stable and regular life. The hut illustrates the pervasive tendency for signs of ritual to appear early in the history of our species, and also the intense drive that the first human beings showed to press on into new and often hostile territories.

The mammoth-bone hut was probably an adaptation of a technology of timber wigwams



Ukrainian mammoth-hunters in the last Ice Age lived in huts built from the huge bones of their victims. This example, at Mezhrich, 150 miles north of the Black Sea, was 4-5 metres in diameter, and contained 385 bones, which had once been knitted together into a dome. Originally, the shaggy hides of mammoth were probably stretched over the exterior to keep out the icy winds. The building might have had some ritual function, for one

to have appeared first in what is now South Africa: the evidence, unfortunately, does not reveal whether these world leaders had black or white skins.

The new peoples spread more vigorously still, displacing their rivals, and at the end of the last Ice Age they were already hovering on the edge of the ice-sheets ready to colonize every bleak acre as it reappeared. It was in just such territory that the Ukrainian hut of skulls was built. By then, virtually all the major land-masses of the world were inhabited from end to end, from Cape Horn to Kamchatka, and from Alaska to Ayers Rock. This was the true "Great Age of Exploration", and it was accomplished with a poverty of resources that we can scarcely imagine.

The entire population of the world was at that stage only about 10 million. All of them lived by hunting and gathering, for the whole of agriculture still lay in the future. Scattered in small communities which had moved thousands of miles from their origins, they existed largely without inkling of the progress or even the existence of most of their fellow-humans.

From the frustratingly scanty scraps of rubbish remains left behind by these handfuls of discoverers travelling light, the course of their advance can be traced, or inferred.

"Archaeologists have to be lucky," says Iris Barry, of the Institute of Archaeology, University of London, who supervised the preparation of the section

dealing with the prehistory of the Americas. "To find the sites that may yield the best results, they have to understand how early men would have fitted into their environment, and really learn to look at the terrain through their eyes."

The original settlement of the Americas is one of the areas of prehistory where inference still has to come to the aid of physical remains. There are no unequivocal signs to prove it, but the only way early people could have reached the New World was across the Bering Straits from Siberia. It used to be thought that they remained penned up in Alaska, where the climate was relatively mild, until the impassable ice-sheets of the final Ice Age receded.

But it is now clear that long before this — at the period when the mammoth-hunters were ranging the Ukraine — men had settled far to the south and east of the ice-sheet, in Pennsylvania. Only a little later they were spearing the giant tortoise in Florida, and peeling potatoes to go with their mastodon steak in southern Chile.

Records of changing prehistoric climates show that one specific "window" opened up which could have allowed men through in time. They must have crossed from Siberia when the sea-level was low enough to let them walk across. This was briefly possible 30,000 years ago, at the height of the Ice Age, when so much water was locked up in the ice-sheets that it lowered worldwide sea levels by as much as 300ft. The first humans crossed the shrunken Banda Sea to Australia at the same period.

It is difficult to imagine that the first settlers in Alaska could have crossed the thousand-mile ice deserts that separated them from the rest of the continent. But 19,000 years ago there was a hush in the cold weather. An ice-free corridor could have opened up for a few centuries, allowing man to move through, before the ice closed in again.

From that time, their line of retreat cut off and soon forgotten, they had the whole of two vast continents to explore, full of game, food-plants, minerals useful and precious, and all the resources that nature could offer. They were able to apply their skills and inventiveness to these resources over many thousands of years, and to develop complex and magnificent civilizations of their own, entirely sealed off from the whole of the rest of the world.

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TOMORROW

Pyramids of the mind: the story of man the builder

Playing the King's Head gambit

A pub moves to the centre of the chess world

A hundred years ago London was the chess centre of the world. Now this neglected tradition is being revived at the King's Head, in Moscow Road, Bayswater — a public house where chess has replaced bar billiards or darts as the most popular game.

Every evening, in the wood-paneled snug bar, the chess elite rubs shoulders with the "rabbits" (chess jargon for the less expert). Around the walls are coffee tables bearing chess boards. And there, too, are timing clocks that enable players to complete games at the rate of five minutes per player for all the moves. Any notion of chess as a quietly contemplative activity must be drastically revised once one has



A round at the King's regulars compete over the chess board

heard the machine gun-like clatter of these clocks being slammed. Chess arrived at the King's Head in the late 1960s, under the influence of Bill Raines, an American who sought to revive the atmosphere of the great London chess clubs of the 19th century. The ambience was ideal — the King's

Club Championship and club enthusiasts have organized international tournaments.

Such an event was the National Westminster Bank Young Masters, held two weeks ago. It was conceived and organized for NatWest by the King's Head, and two teenagers, Michael Adams and David Norwood, emerged having achieved the honour of their first grandmaster result.

Strong players have flocked to join the King's Head. The most prominent member, a stalwart for many years, is Jon Speelman, the first Briton to qualify for the World Championship semi-final. But on any evening a visitor may come across international players such as Julian Hodgson, Danny King or British women's champion, Kathy Forbes.

Foreign players, too, make for the King's Head when they are in London. The club has played host to Bent Larsen, of Denmark, the German grandmaster Robert Hubner,

the Finnish champion Heikki Westerinen and, most recently, the defending Rumanian grandmaster Mihail Suba. One of his first acts after deciding to stay in London three weeks ago was to join.

No money passes hands at the King's Head. This contrasts with Simpsons, the 19th century London chess club where professionals earned their daily bread in games for stakes. But in most other respects, Simpsons and the King's Head have very much in common. Simpsons — which is now a restaurant — was a gathering place for the chess greats of the day and a base from which all chess literature was available.

In the mythology of chess the demise of Simpsons as the centre for the game represented a disaster, but the regulars at the King's Head are well on the way to regaining paradise.

Raymond Keene

SCIENCE REPORT

Drugs an athlete can keep hidden

Anabolic steroids, which caused the spectacular disqualification of Olympic sprinter Ben Johnson, are not the only drugs used by athletes to enhance their performance. A synthetic hormone designed to help short children achieve normal height can also turn bronze medals into gold. The hormone is difficult to detect, and has none of the unpleasant side-effects of steroids.

The International Olympic Committee has banned both human growth hormone and anabolic steroids, and there

have been random urine tests conducted during the Olympic Games to test for athletes who might be circumventing this ban.

Growth hormone presents a particular problem, since there is no urine test which can easily determine whether it is present in amounts greater than the body naturally produces. The lack of side-effects also makes it difficult to tell who might be using a growth hormone.

In men, steroids tend to suppress the body's normal

production of sex hormones, and when the drug is withdrawn, testicle size can shrink. In women, these steroids can cause a permanent deepening of the voice. Anabolic steroids can also increase cholesterol in the blood.

Human growth hormone, when taken by adults, decreases fat and increases lean body mass, making athletes using the drug pound-for-pound stronger than untreated competitors.

Growth hormone is produced by the pituitary gland at the base of the brain, and a supply of it for therapeutic purposes once came primarily from corpses. But in 1985, the US Food and Drug Administration approved a genetically engineered form of growth hormone made by Genetech Inc, making the once scarce substance much easier to obtain.

Although growth hormone is crucial for regulating growth in children, it is produced by the body throughout life (children with human growth hormone deficiency must be externally supplied with the substance if they are to grow normally). At the University of New Mexico School of Medicine, Douglas Crist has been studying the effect of injections of growth hormones in



Ben Johnson: disqualified

adults. In an experiment reported in the latest issue of the *Journal of Applied Physiology*, eight weightlifters (five men and three women) were given three injections of growth hormone every week for six weeks. All had been doing strenuous weight training before the experiment, and all maintained the same training regimen while they were taking the drug.

During the six weeks of drug treatment, the eight subjects gained an average of 2.7 kilograms (6.0lb) in their lean body weight, while at the same time their average per cent of body fat decreased from 12.8 per cent to 11.3 per cent. By careful monitoring of their

subjects, Crist and his colleagues were able to show that these results could not be explained by changes in diet and/or the amount of exercise done by their subjects.

Each subject also went through a six-week control period during which plain water was injected instead of growth hormones. Because they were training, the athletes still showed a decrease in fat (13.4 per cent to 13.0 per cent) and an increase in lean mass (1 kilogram), but the effect was far smaller than when they were taking the drug. Because each subject got the same amount of growth hormone, Crist was also able to show that the hormone's effect was related to the size of the individual.

As Crist points out, an increase in lean body mass does not necessarily mean an increase in muscle mass, but it is nearly certain that at least some fraction of increased weight is due to additional muscles. And the greater the muscle mass, the stronger the muscle. For athletes performing at the limits of human ability, these changes can make the difference between victory and defeat.

Joseph Palca

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PAST WORLDS



To coincide with the publication of *Past Worlds*, The Times Atlas of Archaeology, Times Books are inviting readers of The Times to enter a competition which has as its first prize a copy of *The Vatican Frescoes of Michelangelo*, a limited edition, priced at £2,500. This edition is the only record of the frescoes as they were prior to their restoration and many of its 350 colour plates are full-size reproductions. Twelve runners-up will be awarded copies of *Past Worlds*, published on Thursday at £29.50.

Two of the eight questions which must be answered for entry into the competition are

printed below and the remaining four will be printed over the next two days (the first two questions appeared yesterday). On Friday, September 30, we will be printing full details of entry and the entry coupon.

1. Where was an empress buried with her crown of bamboo, jewels and blue kingfisher feathers?
2. These warriors fought on horseback using bows and arrows and scalped their enemies and kept their hair as a trophy. It was not General Custer who said so, but Herodotus. Who were they?

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TIMES DIARY

SHERIDAN MORLEY

It is not often that one gets close to the centre of even a very minor news story, so I'll make the most of this one while I can. On Sunday night I was at the National Film Theatre handing over a British Film Institute award for the film book of the year, one that our jury had managed to select with only slightly less difficulty than attacks to the Booker. Shortly afterwards, receiving a richly deserved BFI fellowship alongside Graham Greene, Vanessa Redgrave delivered herself of an admittedly rambling tirade against the Central Intelligence Agency and TV-am.

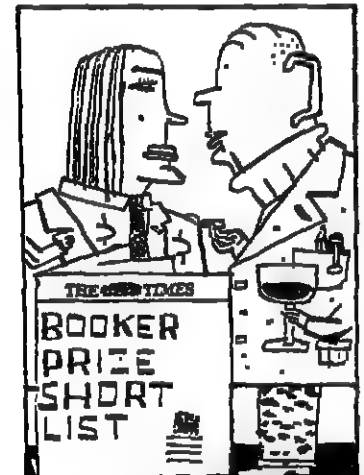
The ceremony was being televised live by Channel 4, but when it got to that bit of the evening, arguably its only truly dramatic moment, Miss Redgrave's attack mysteriously disappeared from the airwaves. It may well be that Channel 4 saw no particular reason to carry an attack on an even vaguely related ITV company, or that it thought Miss Redgrave wrong in her pro-union stance, or that it thought her boring. My point is that if you advertise live coverage of an awards ceremony, you ought to broadcast the whole thing rather than a slightly different programme made some days in advance and briefly interrupted by high-lights from the South Bank.

I don't say that award ceremonies make compulsive viewing, but close to midnight on a Channel 4 Sunday perhaps it would have made some sense to show the whole thing and let viewers decide on the rights or wrongs of Miss Redgrave's case. The other way smacks of an uneasy kind of censorship.

While on the South Bank, am I alone in finding it breath-taking that the superb new Museum of the Moving Image has been cobbled together almost entirely on private money and spare time? In most countries the originator, Leslie Hardcastle, would have been given about ten years and several million pounds of state funding; here, he was told to put it together as best he could over weekends while continuing with his job as a BFI administrator. The result is a joyous celebration of movie-making across the century, housed in a museum as involving as Disneyland, wherein you can not only see everything but do everything. The least we can do is to see that Hardcastle gets a knighthood. Meanwhile take the family before the queue stretches right across Waterloo Bridge.

The best revelation of the week has to be the news that when General Eisenhower was running for the presidency, his advisers used to rig up a neon sign on his lectern which flashed the message GET OFF NOW when he threatened to start on an especially boring speech. Being a military man and therefore accustomed to taking orders, he apparently used to obey without question, which explains why presidential campaigns were so much shorter in the 1950s. The question now is whether, if you flashed up a similar message to Bush or Dukakis, either would be capable of understanding it.

BARRY FANTONI



My money's on the one least likely to be asked for a urine sample.

Getting back from the theatre around midnight, I am accustomed to old Edgar Lustgarten repeats, or high-lights from the golden years of Danzigers' B movies from Merton Park studios, the last resting place of really terrible character actors, circa 1955. It therefore took me several nights watching Barry Norman to realize that he wasn't going to show any movie clips at all, but instead to focus obsessively on some sort of Korean sporting event.

On Monday night I heard a man solemnly announce that Ben Johnson would be entering the history books for having failed a drugs test. Apart from the question this raises about the kind of history books we propose to leave our children, I would have assumed that if you were going to spend even a part of your life running round a circular dirt track in Korea you would have to take something to stay awake.

Soon I shall be setting off to Birmingham, Leamington Spa and Manchester in the hope of flogging a few copies of my latest books at authors' lunches and the like. In contrast to most of my fellow hacks, who say they prefer writing books to selling them, I look forward to semi-literary tours, especially the occasional meetings on Crewe station with other haggard authors reporting on a total lack of book-buyers in Pilloch or Penzance.

This jaunt reminds me of the time when, between jobs, I used to trek around the country as an after-lunch speaker, until most local groups decided that, because of inflation, it was a matter of paying for the pudding or paying for the speaker, and on balance they would rather have the pudding. Basil Boothroyd, the most distinguished staff writer when I first went to *Punch* 15 years ago, used to recount horrendous stories of peripatetic lecturing. He once got himself into a Cornish ladies' luncheon club run by a vicar who, during Basil's speech, took each of the ladies into an ante-chamber individually for about ten minutes.

On the way back to the station, Basil couldn't resist asking what he had been up to. "Ah, you noticed," said the vicar. "I hoped you wouldn't, but I'd better explain: we only have these gatherings once a month, and when I get my ladies all together I like them to have their feet done, so the chiropodist comes round and clips their toenails during the speech."

Bernard Levin makes the perverse suggestion that the British government should fulfil its responsibilities towards Hong Kong by encouraging its people to leave. He purports to believe that we are duty bound to turn two or three million inhabitants of one of the most dynamic economies in Asia — indeed in the world — into economic refugees, to be packaged off to any countries that are prepared to take them in.

He may find the concept of an oriental *Götterdämmerung* emotionally compelling. I do not. Nor do those who really matter in this case: the people of Hong Kong. They want and deserve much better than that. They are working hard to achieve it.

They can do without the irritation of ill-informed noises off. They can certainly do without the patronizing assumption, which underlies the article's thesis, that they do not, in fact, wish to build their future in their home territory.

This apocalyptic view of Hong Kong simply does not stand up to close examination. Nor does his notion that the British gov-

ernment cannot wait to wash its hands of Hong Kong. He does not cite evidence of this; indeed, there is none.

One of the most important tasks facing me when I became Foreign Secretary five years ago was to make arrangements for a secure future for Hong Kong. What cannot be gainsaid is that, without such arrangements, the colony would have simply reverted to China in 1997 — a point that Bernard Levin brushes aside.

The negotiations to build those arrangements were tough and protracted and ended only when the best negotiable deal had been secured for Hong Kong. We would hardly have laboured as we did for such a result if we had been "eager to get shot of" Hong Kong.

Sir Geoffrey Howe rejects Bernard Levin's pessimistic view

Hong Kong safeguarded

Far from simply handing it over, we achieved a binding international agreement, comprehensive in scope and meticulous in its detailed provision for the maintenance of Hong Kong's existing economic and social system after 1997.

The Sino-British Joint Declaration, to give the Hong Kong agreement its correct name, is not a diplomatic convenience; it is about commitment. The commitment of the British government, from the Prime Minister downwards, is to ensure that Hong Kong not only survives but also thrives well beyond 1997.

The agreement is not a way out; it is a way forward — a practical blueprint for success. It can work. It is working. Since it was concluded, Hong Kong's

economy has recovered from the doldrums to produce a spectacular run of growth — more than 30 per cent in the last three years.

I am confident that the agreement will continue to work. Both parties to it — China and Britain — have much at stake, politically and economically. They are both determined to make it work.

The article takes issue with the first draft of the Basic Law — the document that the Chinese government is drafting to give effect under the Chinese constitution to the provisions of the Joint Declaration.

But the draft is not as he describes it. Human rights in Hong Kong are not to "be based on the Chinese constitution" as he seems to think, but on the provisions of the International Covenant on Civil and Political

Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

That is what the draft Basic Law says. It is precisely what the Sino-British Joint Declaration envisaged. On this point, which forms the central plank of Bernard Levin's argument, he is plainly wrong.

The draft Basic Law is just that — a draft. It is currently the subject of extensive consultation in Hong Kong. The Chinese authorities have made it clear that the text will be substantially amended in the light of the views of the Hong Kong people.

It is a massive text, most of it very much along the right lines. Like any draft, it contains imperfections. The purpose of the present consultation process is to expose these and find ways

to put them right. If this is all elaborate smokescreen, as article appears to be suggest, it is hard to see what anyone is to gain from it. Least of all Chinese, who know as well as any of us that the people of Hong Kong need proper guarantees for the future to sustain the confidence on which Hong Kong economy — so valuable to China — depends.

Hong Kong is too important to become the subject of polemics. The future of nearly 6 million people is at stake. Securing that future requires hard work, confidence and firm commitment.

Those are precisely the assets that we are bringing to the question. That is how the British government is fulfilling its responsibilities towards Hong Kong and its people.

It is not a policy of depopulation and defeat, such as Bernard Levin has proposed. It is an approach that envisages the Hong Kong success story continuing long after 1997. And it is an approach that is producing results.

Barbara Amiel

All things to Everyman

This conference, explained Richard Holmes, a member of the Democrats' policy committee, "is about merging cultures, about two tribes coming together." What he says is true, of course, although the more distinctive features and war paint seem to be missing from both constituent parties this time around. One observer speculated that a Liberal could be spotted by his tankard of Theakston's Old Peculier while SPD-ers nursed gins and tonics.

The two tribes turned out in force on Sunday night at what was billed as Paddy Ashdown's "first major speech as party leader." The platform was heavy with founding fathers: Robert Maclean and David Steel on one side of the new leader, Shirley Williams and Roy Jenkins on the other.

Over them hung the sepulchral shadow of David Owen. He surfaced both obliquely in Ashdown's speech and then specifically as a man whose disrespect for a democratic decision of his own party was "the root cause of your present situation." It was an evening to be pondered. There was, one felt, nothing deliberately spiteful in it, only the awkwardness of two tribes who as yet have few shared anecdotes or humorous reference points.

As the week wore on, all disputes and accomplishments bloomed ferociously like great jungle plants fed by steaming hot air. The unhappiness of the parliamentary members of the Democrats over their party's name change loomed large.

For my money it was Russell Johnston who summed up the dilemma most powerfully of all: "I think the word Liberal is one of the most potent important words in the political vocabulary," he told the conference. "To seek to excise it seems to me an act of extraordinary folly."

One could sympathize. In spite of the reassurances of the party leadership that "Liberal" would remain in the full name of the party, it was difficult not to see the Blackpool vote as the final step in the decline of a party whose name echoes the great tradition of Western liberal democracy. Still, in spite of this unhappy disagreement, the week at Blackpool gave legitimacy to the new party and its new leader.

The question facing it now is simple: the Democrats have 85,000 members. Who are the people that will join the party in order to make it a force outside Blackpool's Opera House?

The answer, of course, depends on a good deal on what the party stands for. That's easy, in one sense. This will be the centre-left party, the party that retains the benefits of the free market without its drawbacks. The philosophy is set out in the preamble to its constitution as well as the consultative paper *Setting the Agenda*.

The Democrats promise to encourage free enterprise but recognize "that the market alone does not distribute wealth or income fairly." It will emphasize "just distribution of the rewards of success." The key to the new party's policy will be the importance attached to community and the sense of an individual as a member of that community. The party will be ecologically responsible, anti-nuclear, but industrially competitive. It will improve and expand the health services, education, social services and housing. One could be forgiven for feeling that its constitution ought to be written in Swarthmoor.

Much of this programme was outlined in Ashdown's speech on Sunday night. In it, he touched also on the question of new members for the party. They must come, he said, from the "ethnic minority communities" as well as the broader public. "It may be uncomfortable to admit it," he told his audience, "but how can we claim to represent all our people if all our faces are white?"

I was at that moment in his speech that a chord struck in my memory and I reached for a copy of the American magazine *The Nation* which can best be described, I think, as America's most established voice of socialist thinking. The current edition features an editorial entitled "Memo to Dukakis" which outlines what he must do to win the presidential election.

● Build on the first intimations of class consciousness. Spell out and explain what you will do to equalize the distribution of profits from the hell-bent-for-leather US economy.

● Expand the pool of eligible voters. Remember the Jesse Jackson supporters in the south.



Ask them to register. Do the same with single-issue groups such as peace, labour rank and file, feminists, environmentalists.

● Third, and perhaps the most crucial point of all, is worth quoting in full. "Offer Americans a good deal: comprehensive health care, quality education, meaningful work, elderly and children's services, affordable housing, social equality, tolerance and growth. And when they ask you who will pay for it, tell them the people who ought to pay will pay. End of discussion."

The reasons that Ashdown's speech reminded me of this article are evident and raise a number of fears. But first one has to add to the mix a pamphlet given out at the Blackpool conference which lists — for discussion purposes — the values

to be fine tuned. But after reading the policy papers and watching the chorus line, one hopes that the Democrats' policy analysts will grasp the nettle in order to prevent themselves falling off the edge of the left.

In my view there are three areas that will have to be worked out philosophically. The Democrats have their eyes wide open when it comes to the dangers of pursuing egalitarianism to the bitter end. This, they point out in their policy papers, leads to the loss of liberty as in Mao's China. That is true. What they don't quite seem to understand is that this pursuit also results in the loss of equality. It is important for them to appreciate this because of the second area of their confusion, which is a refusal to make some values absolute priorities over others.

Speaking for myself, nothing could be healthier for British parliamentary democracy than the creation of a strong centre party. Whatever the shortcomings of the Blackpool Conference, these are very early days for the Democrats and clearly party policy and strategy has yet

to be fine tuned. But after reading the policy papers and watching the chorus line, one hopes that the Democrats' policy analysts will grasp the nettle in order to prevent themselves falling off the edge of the left.

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Commentary • ARTHUR SELDON

No voice without choice

The post-war extension of government into industry and the welfare state has fostered the illusion that democratic freedom is based on the exercise of the vote, or "voice" as the economist Albert O. Hirschman has termed it. This is supplemented by involvement in the elected (or selected) agencies that implement policy.

Regional and subordinate executive and advisory committees have proliferated, along with councils and commissions on fuel, transport, education, medical care and much else. They ostensibly represent consumers in particular or the people in general, who are thus supposed to exercise sovereignty by virtue of having an indirect voice in their services. They have a say.

This interpretation and development of democracy requires extensive involvement, ideally of public-spirited citizens who sacrifice their time, leisure, personal interests and family life for the good of their fellow citizens.

There may be many such paragons. But making sure you have a say requires the capacity and the inclination to debate with and confront opponents, to organize, proselytize, bargain and compromise. And these political qualities are exceptional. Some reveal in political life, but most do not. That is a central weakness of political democracy.

In practice, democracy is the preserve of perhaps 5 per cent of the people — those with rare political skills. They thus acquire extensive power over the lives of

the 95 per cent of apolitical people, who may feel they have done their duty by using their votes.

The 19th-century doctrine of representative democracy was developed when government largely confined itself to the indispensable functions of the state. These "public goods" have to be provided by government and financed collectively by taxation because it is impracticable to finance them by individual pricing. But though the imperfections of government have to be suffered in the provision of "public goods" they have been inflicted on us unnecessarily in other areas such as industry and welfare, which are not "public goods."

Extending the franchise was supposed to integrate British society by allowing everyone to participate in political democracy. But the increasing influence of the politically active élite in Parliament and local government has deepened the divisions.

First, the system aggrandizes the politically articulate, talented and adroit. Second, it wastes the energies of many who would be better employed producing goods and services, organizing voluntary work, ministering to neighbours or strengthening family life.

Third, "voice" is ineffective if those exercising it have no real choice, or "exit" as Hirschman terms it. "Voices" will not be sufficiently heeded by parent governors, health executives, transport consumers' committees and the rest because the con-

sumers are, in effect, captive: they have nowhere else to go.

The Prime Minister's recent advice to Conservative parents to join boards of governors is a natural reaction to the influence of left-inclined activists in state education. If heeded, there could be a better balance of left-right voices in British society as a result. Yet a better balance would not by itself heal the divisions between the politically talented in all parties and those who may vote but are otherwise not politically active.

Increased government or local authority control in industry and welfare has made some citizens even more equal than others. And the causes are difficult to eradicate. There are no easy remedies for cultural differences. The assertive can argue a better case than the reticent for action on crowded trains, on an unhappy child at a state school, a neglected wife in an NHS hospital, a frustrated council tenant.

The system inevitably reflects middle-class skills and culture. It enables the bourgeoisie to steal a march on the masses. Articulate middle-class parents successfully block radical Conservative reforms such as the reform of the university grant structure. But why is the Government approaching the reform of education, medical care and local government by way of ineffectual half-way houses when it could radically extend the opportunities for the exercise of individual choice? Only this would make the middle-class "voices" respond to those who

are politically less sophisticated and socially less well-connected.

The dependence of effective voice on a range of choices can be seen in a wide range of political power structures. Take local councils, for example. Local government electors have a voice once in three years; 60 per cent do not trouble to use it. Most of the other 40 per cent do not bother to use their voice to complain if they are dissatisfied. If, on the other hand, their decision to opt out threatened the revenue or power of councillors, that would make them sit up.

At the other extreme, Soviet citizens who now hope to have effective political votes will still have little say in the allocation of resources. To give them power to influence the planners, and so their living standards and their artistic and spiritual freedom, Gorbachev must give them the power to opt out, to have a choice of markets over the whole economy.

In all countries political democracy can be enhanced and its organic defects minimized if government is limited to the functions only it can perform. The machinery for imposing that discipline on temporary parliamentary majorities in Britain is not inconceivable. In the Soviet Union the growing acceptance of the market could make that discipline feasible without civil war. But in both the provision of alternatives, or exits, will be indispensable for individual freedom.

The author is vice-president of the Institute of Economic Affairs.

SEPT 28 ON THIS DAY 1954



In the early 1950s American politics was dominated by the activities of Senator Joseph McCarthy (1900-57). His anti-communist campaign became a witch hunt, with the reckless denunciation of public figures. Finally he overreached himself and in December 1954 his actions were condemned by the Senate.

CENSURE ON Mr MCCARTHY

From Our Own Correspondent
WASHINGTON, Sept 27

The United States Senate is strongly recommended today to censure Senator McCarthy on two of the five general charges against him recently examined by a select committee of his peers sitting on Capitol Hill under Senator Watkins.

It finds in another massive report devoted to Mr McCarthy's activities that he was in "contempt" of the Senate for refusing in 1951 and 1952 to testify before its sub-committee on elections and privileges about his financial affairs; and — the second finding for censure — that he had "abused" General Ralph Zwicker at a hearing of his investigating committee on the Fort Monmouth affair last February.

The terms in which the committee writes of Mr McCarthy's language about his fellow senators may well be regarded by some members as a third recommendation for censure when the Senate meets on November 8 to debate the report. The choice of this date has clearly been made with an eye to the general election on November 2; senators engaged in it would not wish to

interrupt their campaigns, and there is no doubt a desire not to embroil political issues with a censure debate at this time. There is plenty of material in the Watkins report, however, to make all that is suggested by Mr McCarthyism one of the issues of the campaign — and if Mr McCarthy is not the force he was he has left a good deal of poison along his path.

A vote of censure in the Senate, of which there have been only three instances, involves no punishment of course beyond its possible impact on public opinion; and the present recommendations do not necessarily imply that a motion will now be carried. It would be expected perhaps that Senator Watkins' defence; he said that neither of the charges deserved censure and it is already apparent that Mr McCarthy will wage a vigorous rearguard action on the Senate floor.

The committee itself is capable of blunt language. It finds that Mr McCarthy was "contemptuous, contumacious, and denunciations" and that he had obstructed the legislative process in refusing to appear before the Senate committee that looked into his financial dealings and other matters. The whole record of the inquiry, together with photographed copies of Mr McCarthy's income tax returns, and evidence of other financial operations, are included in the present report.

It finds that Mr McCarthy was guilty of "reprehensible" conduct toward General Zwicker whom he had accused of not being "fit to wear the uniform of a state commander" for declining to state, on superior orders, why an officer suspected of being a Communist had been honourably discharged from the Army...



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FRAUD'S GOLD

Years ago, among the flames, flags and white doves, two competitors, on behalf of the rules of their Olympic sports, Mr Johnson did not, it appears, feel bound by words. He took banned drugs to improve performance on the track. He was caught, now exchanged hours of fame for years of grace.

Moral ought to be simple. Rules are part of definition of sport. Whether one is runner or spectator, amateur or professional, world champion or school reserve, a without rules is mere running, tennis mere ball, boxing nothing but a brawl.

It was always so. Equally, it was always grizzled that the rewards of success — especially at Olympic Games — would tempt some to cheat. The rich rewards from nations which Mr Johnson has won and lost nothing new. Even at the most ancient Olympic Games, the victor's laurel crown was the beginning. Back home there would be a massive money-prize, heroic status, in free food from the State for life. Before competition began at Olympia the athletes to use "neither fraud nor guile" was taken competitors individually. Spectators were asked to challenge — as in wedding bans — anyone disqualified "by blood or character". It did not stop the rules being bent but it owed society's disapproval at their bending. The modern Olympics — born in a spirit of utopian amateurism — now bear more resemblance to their ancient ancestors. Respect for the rules needs to be inculcated as fiercely too. It is right that Mr Johnson, whose blood and character fell so spectacularly foul of the rule-book, has been so publicly punished.

It may be said that this is hypocritical and unfair, that for many years the Olympics were a byword for broken rules, most notably those governing the amateur status of performers. No one should be taken in by that.

It is true that the Olympic movement had to make painful adjustments to the impossibility of differentiating between amateur and professional sportsmen. When different countries, cultures and political systems had such different attitudes to money and status, there was no option but for these rules to be loosened. Mr Johnson knew that he ran no risk by earning cash rewards from Seoul which would have made Baron de Coubertin blanch.

Mr Johnson also knew that other rules were at the same time, and with maximum publicity, being tightened. The body-building drug found in his blood was a clear breach of those rules.

Drug-taking athletes from all over the world use the most modern frauds and guiles to avoid detection. Some have become arrogant enough to think that anabolic steroids can be taken with as much impunity as once were their envelopes of "appearance expenses". Sometimes, thankfully, they are proved wrong. It would benefit everyone if "sometimes" were as quickly as possible to become "always".

All cheating makes a meaningless mockery of sport. But this cheating kills people too. Steroids are a class of compounds characterized, curiously, by an atomic structure of four fused rings. Those rings are as close as the anabolic steroid can ever come to the spirit of the Olympic flag.

If Olympians risk their kidneys, livers, their whole lives, by cheating for money or fame, the many thousands who emulate their feats will also risk theirs — mostly for nothing. Athletes, officials and coaches have long known of the extent of anabolic steroid use. But until *The Times* published its award-winning investigation last year, British complicity in the practices was obscured by evasion and denial.

Since then, exposure has followed exposure — both in the months before these Games and at Seoul itself. Nothing, however, matches the disgrace of "the fastest man in the world". This is a tragedy for Mr Johnson — none the less so for being, by arrogance or greed, brought upon himself. It is a sad day for Canada and its athletes, exactly 60 years after their hero, Percy Williams, last won them the gold medal in this event. It may yet, however, be a good day for the Olympics.

The skill and determination of the authorities at Seoul should be a marker for other international athletics bodies who have shown less of both. This latest proof must produce the necessary resources of men, machines and money to ensure that the detectors stay ahead of the abusers. It must intensify official determination to impose random tests in and out of season, to test athletes routinely when they make major advances in performance.

Only the rules of athletics protect its existence as a sport. Only their strict enforcement can protect its name from further shame.

ADVICE FROM BERLIN

This year's annual meetings of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank in Berlin take place against a world economic background that is considerably more favourable than it was last year. For Britain, however, the reverse is true.

Last year, Britain's growth rate was the fastest in the developed world while inflation remained relatively low. This year, over-rapid expansion has begun to reap a harvest of rising inflation, higher interest rates and a widening current account deficit. Yesterday's trade deficit for August, although lower than July's, shows that the economy has continued to grow too rapidly.

The rise in inflation and widening trade deficit have inevitably provoked calls for a reversal of the Budget cuts in taxation. The IMF has not gone quite that far, but it makes no secret of its belief that if, come the spring, demand is still growing rapidly, the Budget should plan for an even bigger surplus. That might not mean tax increases, but it could mean no tax cuts.

The Fund may be right in its judgement, but it is jumping several fences before we have even reached the first. Nobody can be certain how soon the summer rise in interest rates will slow the economy down. The only sure advice is that any assessment the Treasury makes in the run-up to the Budget should be cautious.

From every point of view it is better not to make frequent fiscal adjustments. Reading the tea-leaves of the economy is always difficult. It presents particular problems if the objective is short-term adjustment at a time when the results of measures already taken are still uncertain. It also tends to be inefficient. Most important, if people are forced to regard tax changes as only temporary this reduces the effect on the supply side of the economy.

The IMF is on stronger ground in calling for

tighter fiscal policies in the United States, which far from having a budget surplus like Britain has a sizeable deficit. But while everyone can see the desirability of cutting the US deficit further, everyone also knows that this will not happen before the presidential election. The worry is that it may not happen afterwards either.

The new US Treasury Secretary, Mr Nicholas Brady, has apparently assured his finance minister colleagues that if Mr Bush is elected President, he will act decisively to cut the deficit. However, Mr Bush has made strong pledges not to raise taxes, and while the President may propose on matters of public spending, it is Congress that disposes. Mr Dukakis might raise taxes but he would also increase spending on social programmes.

The IMF also argues for a lower dollar. If demand in the US is going to remain high then a competitive exchange rate will be needed if progress is to be made in reducing the other US deficit, on trade. Markets have so far taken more notice of the G7's commitment to continuing exchange rate stability, but over time the IMF is likely to be proved right.

In terms of advancing co-operation in managing the world economy, the IMF/World Bank meetings, the more significant developments have been in managing the debt problems of the Third World. But these developments are not entirely reassuring.

If a World Bank loan to Argentina involves a less rigorous agreement on restructuring the economy than the more conventional IMF finance would do, it will benefit neither lenders, nor other borrowers, nor in the long run Argentina itself. More substantial progress on the world economy will have to wait for the next IMF meeting in the spring, when a new US Administration is in place.

LIBERALS AND DEMOCRATS

The torment of so many former Liberals over the abandonment of the old name in their new party's short title may look like self-indulgence. The Liberals were always hallmarked by an introspection and ambiguity in policy which tended to negate their claims to be an effective party for the major issues.

Yet there have been solid reasons for concern on both sides of the argument. "Liberal Democrats" would have been too long an alternative and would probably have been shortened to "Liberals" which would have contradicted the claim, on which their future depends, to be a new party.

Yet the shortening to Democrats for everyday use is also unsatisfactory. It is not only that it is usually more effective to change only that part of the package than to stamp it with an unfamiliar brandname. The stronger objection is that, in the context of British politics, "Democrats" lacks meaning.

It suits American history, with its political roots anchored in the British 18th century tradition of two parties with titles which, like those of our old Whigs and Tories, mean nothing and eschew ideology. In America, all nothing and eschew ideology. In America, all nothing and eschew ideology. In America, all nothing and eschew ideology.

But British political descriptions have always meant something, though the meaning changes continually. The Conservatives do indeed fundamentally exist to conserve the best of the past and to maintain continuity. Even the fact that they are the true liberals in Britain today is the mark of this.

They are, of course, liberals in a sense starkly

different from usage in America where "liberal" is a weapon against any opponent accused of leftism and socialism. In Britain, liberalism connotes individual responsibility, anti-collectivism and free trade — all of which the Conservatives have adopted.

As for Labour, its title also describes its roots and tradition. Instead of calling itself the Socialist Party, it uses a name denoting the class roots and interest which are both its weakness and (in the bedrock Labour areas) its strength, avoiding inflexible commitment to socialist doctrine.

The Democrats depart from a tradition in abandoning a name rooted in the politics which evolved after the first Reform Bill. In their prime the Liberals were a great party, reformist, individualistic but also socially concerned. They embraced the paternalism and social welfare of Gladstone and Lloyd George as well as free trade. But their prime was short, ending with the Lloyd George v. Asquith feud unleashed in the First World War.

Since then, the Liberal Party has been in terminal decline. It was time for a new start. The successor party, including also Social Democrats, may not have chosen a riveting name; the Reform Party might have been better. But the old title had to go.

The Democrats' future depends on whether they can do to the present Labour Party what the old Labour Party did to the old Liberals. That requires, as Mr Asquith saw, a new and more realistic kind of politics. The reluctant sacrifice of a revered old name could conceivably be a sign of it.

Law's delay in ousting tenant

From Mrs Christine Minty
Sir, The action of Walsall College in changing the locks on the door of the room of an expelled student who refused to vacate it (report, September 20) may have been in breach of the law but it was certainly effective.

As a law-abiding citizen, I followed the legal route when one of my tenants ceased to pay rent last December. After giving the tenant an opportunity to make good, I eventually initiated possession proceedings in the county court in April. The undefended hearing was in mid-July, when I obtained an order of immediate possession. So far so good.

However, the only legal way to enforce that order is to apply for a warrant of execution. This must be executed by the court bailiff, who told me (in early September) that, because of a considerable backlog, even a July order for immediate possession was unlikely to be executed before November or December. Compared to a loss of 12 months' rent, the fine of £250 and costs of £159 imposed on the college appear to be a cheap alternative.

If the Government are seeking by the new Housing Bill to make private sector renting a more attractive proposition to investors, they must not only alter the substantive law but must also provide effective machinery for enforcing it. What is the purpose in giving a landlord a right to possession after non-payment of rent for three months (as is suggested) if, after waiting two to three months for a court hearing, it then takes a further four to five months for the order to be enforced?

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTINE MINTY,
81 Finabury Park Road, N4,
September 21.

Owl protection

From Mr J. Westlake
Sir, I was interested to read the report (September 20) of the Duchy of Cornwall's attempt to help the barn owl population by providing nest boxes.

It may interest your readers to know that the Forestry Commission has been providing nest boxes for barn owls in Galloway. These are situated adjacent to recently clear-felled sites which provide an excellent habitat for short-tailed voles (the barn owl's main food supply). Response to this provision has been excellent this year, with over 30 nesting pairs recorded.

We are also undertaking a similar project in Ruthin Forest district in North Wales. Here, captive-bred barn owls have been released to take up residence in nest boxes within the forest.

As our forests mature and clear-felling becomes a common feature, we are creating an ideal habitat for the small mammals on which the barn owl depends. Projects such as these, together with the Duchy's will, we hope, go some way towards making the barn owl a common sight in Britain again.

Yours faithfully,
J. WESTLAKE,
Forestry Commission (Wales Conservancy),
Victoria House,
Victoria Terrace,
Aberystwyth,
Dyfed,
September 23.

Private baptism

From the Reverend D. G. Richards
Sir, Mr Manwaring (September 21) advocates the merits of baptism services held in public.

May I remind him that in many parishes this is already the case. When parents are regular worshippers their child is baptised in the morning public service when they are not the baptism takes place at some other time.

This does not make the parents second-class Christians but shows a practical and pastoral care, for it is often more than enough for them to cope with the baptism service without inflicting upon them an additional service with which they are completely unfamiliar. On such occasions the priest is given far more time to deal with those present in an intimate way.

Yours faithfully,
DEREK RICHARDS,
The Rectory,
Llandudno,
Gwynedd,
September 21.

Widening air choice

From Lord Bethell, MEP for London North West (European Democrat (Conservative))

Sir, Your correspondent, Peter Martin (September 26) correctly summarises the December 1987 agreement on European air transport. His implication, though, that there is unlikely to be any serious change in the present regulated system, even after 1992, seems too pessimistic.

The 1987 agreement has turned out to be a catalyst for change and the ordinary traveller now enjoys a variety of choice, including low fares, which would have been unthinkable a year ago.

Flights from Britain to Belgium and The Netherlands and, to a lesser extent, Ireland, are now effectively deregulated in the sense that the foreign government finds it very hard to prevent a British carrier from coming on to a route and charging a low fare. There are now at least eight carriers on

Crime, punishment and victim

From Mr Tony F. Marshall
Sir, Your leading article of September 21 makes the crucial point that offenders should take personal responsibility for the harm caused to their victims. Any policy which encourages this should be welcomed, as the usual experience of court for the offenders is as an abstract and alienating experience divorced from the reality of their actions, which they are not brought to face in any direct or personal way.

You go on to say that the Magistrates' Association proposals — that courts should compensate victims and recover the amount from the offender — would break the "moral link" between victim and offender. There are many advantages, however, to the Magistrates' Association's idea — not least that victims will get more quickly compensated than at present, and in one lump sum instead of small portions irregularly over one or two years.

The way to provide the moral link is to give offenders every opportunity before sentence to volunteer reparation to the victim. This would involve an even greater degree of personal accountability than the current Government proposals, and such a scheme could be operated with appropriate safeguards under the auspices of such successful reparation projects as currently exist in a few jurisdictions already. Failure on the part of an offender with the resources to make reparation to do so voluntarily could be taken into account by the court in the use of their own powers to award compensation.

The added virtue of pre-sentence arrangements for reparation is that victims' needs other than material ones (and, especially for victims of violence, emotional needs are generally more important to them than financial restoration) can also be catered for through a mediated confrontation with the offender if they so wish.

Yours faithfully,
TONY F. MARSHALL (Director,
Forum for Initiatives in Reparation and Mediation),
19 London End,
Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire.

From Mr Benedict Birnberg
Sir, I read with disgust yet another case of reckless driving by a disqualified driver who had twice been banned for drunken driving and who, again after drink,

Thatcher and Europe

From Mr G. F. H. Thomas
Sir, It is comforting to learn from *Mijnheer Nord* (September 23) that in the EEC "there has never been a serious proposal for a superstate to replace our existing nations"; but, if so, what was it about Mrs Thatcher's speech (report, September 21) that caused such strong reactions?

The *Times* (report, September 22) quoted Mr Krastovits, a senior Foreign Ministry official from Greece, as saying that Greece supports cooperation between EEC states "for the purpose of creating political and economic union". Did not M Delors recently tell us that within a decade 80 per cent of economic and social legislation would be made in Brussels? Has he not spoken of "embryo European government"? When *Mijnheer Nord* himself

Dea and after

From the Leader of the Opposition of the Inner London Education Authority

Sir, I wonder if I might be allowed to clarify the impression given in your report of September 15 on my recent publication, *Could Do Better?* for the Centre for Policy Studies.

Rather than state "the abolition of the Labour-controlled Inner Lea led to greater bureaucracy", I said that abolition was a necessary first step in improving education in London. My worry is that the Labour-controlled London boroughs appear to be trying to create similar top-heavy bureaucracies to Lea and these could well stifle the other important reforms in the new Education Reform Act such as local financial management.

The main contention of my publication is that now the argument for abolition has been won, I see no reason why abolition should lead to any delay in carrying out the rest of the reforms. Therefore, when the secretary of state calls in the individual borough plans in 1989, he must be rigorous in his scrutiny in order to force the pace of change.

The abolition of Lea is not an

careered his car into a fellow road-user, burning him to death and orphaning his fiancée's child-to-be (report, September 22). This is only the latest of a horrible litany of death and mayhem on our roads.

I venture to suggest that the Government should establish a compensation fund for victims of such criminally reckless "accidents"; that the victims be entitled as of right, in addition to the normal common law measure of damages, to a substantial exemplary award to mark society's abhorrence of the manner of their loss; and that the convicted offender be ordered to reimburse the fund, with power given to the fund supervisors to seize and attach any present or future property or earnings of the offender.

Of course there will always be the anti-social few who are deterred by nothing and for whom tough penal sanctions may be society's only response. But for the great majority of our fellow citizens nothing could be more sobering than the knowledge that, if convicted of reckless driving causing death or personal injury, they will spend the rest of their lives making restitution to their victims.

Yours faithfully,
BENEDICT BIRNBERG,
4 Eliot Place,
Blackheath, SE3,
September 23.

Court costs

From Mr A. G. Evans
Sir, The report in yesterday's *Times* ("Magistrates' courts in danger of collapse", September 22) prompts me to enquire whether there has ever been any detailed examination of the cost of managing magistrates' courts with stipendiary, as opposed to lay, magistrates.

I suspect that a more widespread use of stipendiaries would result in savings rather than greater expense. Their ability to deal with a much greater case load would require the employment of fewer court clerks and Crown prosecutors. The demand for court space and the expense of advocates' time would also be reduced.

Yours faithfully,
A. G. EVANS,
Oak Cottage,
68 Kildomere Green Road,
Brewood, Stafford,
September 23.

states that the rule of law must operate on a Community level, what exactly can he mean?

Why did Mrs Thatcher not start this debate — has there ever been a more important one? — before Parliament, with scarcely a thought, voted to ratify the Single European Act instead of afterwards. If that is academic it is certainly true now that the views that Mrs Thatcher has been expressing reflect popular opinion in this country.

If these views are out of line with those of other Europeans it is certainly better that we find out now rather than later. We thought we had dropped in for a drink and had that they are already choosing names for the baby.

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE THOMAS,
17 Camden Hill Square, W8,
September 24.

end in itself, but only the beginning of the process of placing the power of decision-making in the hands of parents and schools rather than County Hall or town hall bureaucracies.

Yours faithfully,
ERIC OLLERENSHAW,
Leader of the Opposition,
Inner London Education Authority,
Members' Lobby,
The County Hall, SE1,
September 15.

Long way round

From Mr A. C. W. Greetham
Sir, Some 30 years ago, I enquired of an aged character in a Berkshire public house, "Are you a local man?"

He replied, "No, son, I be Wiltshire. Wootton Bassett is where I do come up from down over to".

I recall the incident clearly and the fact that I mentally coined the word "postposition" for the phenomenon. Yours faithfully,
A. C. W. GREETHAM,
2 Gordon Road,
Weston-super-Mare,
Avon,
September 22.

governments and monopolistic carriers into the real competitive world supposedly guaranteed by article 85 of the Treaty of Rome. It is more a question for the airline industry to decide, by trial and error, and if necessary by bankruptcy, how far they really can reduce fares and stay in business at a profit.

British Airways and other traditional carriers believe that this cannot be done, that standards will slip unacceptably as soon as the "buccaneer" airlines cut prices. I believe that they are wrong, but happily this is something that will be decided by the marketplace, not by the regulators. Yours etc.,
NICHOLAS BETHELL,
(Chairman, Freedom of the Skies),
As from: 73 Sussex Gardens, W2,
September 27.

Until the postal backlog is cleared letters to the Editor may be sent to a temporary fax number,
(01) 782 5864

Appointment of woman bishop

From Mrs Joan M. Mayland
Sir, Your newspaper this morning is full of gloomy surmises about the effect on the Anglican Communion of the election of a woman bishop in the USA. I first heard the news on my car radio as I drove back from Manchester along the M6, about 10.15 pm on September 24. In my car, by myself, I cheered loudly and I had a sense that in heaven the bells were ringing.

Your account, and the reports that she has been divorced do not take away my joy. I rejoice that at least one part of the Anglican Communion is following in the footsteps of the One who affirmed the outcasts, the despised and the women, and told the parables of the lost sheep and the prodigal son to the religious leaders (male) of his time.

Those bishops of the Church of England who can only talk gloomily of a split do not seem to realise that what is really at stake is the truth of the heart of the Gospel — the full redemption of all human beings. As a woman I feel my redemption affirmed in the election of a fellow woman as a bishop.

When I read the Bishop of London and others I can only feel that the logical conclusion of their remarks can only be that female human nature is not really redeemed — a complete travesty of the truth of the Gospel.

What I feel as a woman must be felt in a similar way by the blacks who feel rejected and the divorced who seem to be told that for their sin there is no forgiveness and no new start.

There is more joy in heaven, etc! Yours faithfully,
JOAN M. MAYLAND,
3 Minster Court,
York,
September 26.

From Mr George West
Sir, Dr Jenkins, Bishop of Durham, has stated on the radio that opponents of women priests are victims of a stupid and old-fashioned neurosis which insists that "God was man" (report, September 19).

Surely this outburst cannot go unanswered, so please allow a layman to speak for the many who feel their stand for tradition is right, logical and fully justified.

With the Bible as a reliable authority, we read that Jesus said "When ye pray, say Our Father, which art in Heaven". Nothing ambiguous, or neurotic about that.

As for women, they deserve their rightful place, mostly as a housewife and mother, a God-given gift.

However in the Church, again with the Bible and all-time directive of St Paul (no less), we read, "Let women be silent in the churches". Again nothing neurotic or ambiguous about that.

Two commandments — which we ignore at our peril.

Sincerely yours,
GEORGE WEST,
89 Warwick Road,
Sutton, Surrey,
September 21.

College shortfall

From the Principal of Chichester Theological College

Sir, Clifford Longley (report, September 22) quotes a report by an unnamed group of clergymen that this college has only four new students this year. This is not so. Twelve new students (of whom three are women) begin their training this month. The average annual intake is between 15 and 20.

In the light of this error, your readers might think it wise also to question the report's attribution of the shortfall to a single issue — the debate over the ordination of women to the priesthood. A current general decline in the number of ordinands is having a particular impact on the so-called "Anglo-Catholic" colleges. It is easier to speculate about reasons than to produce hard evidence, but the picture is certainly more complicated than the group's report apparently suggests.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN HIND, Principal,
Chichester Theological College,
Chichester, West Sussex,
September 22.

A 'Times' day out

From Mrs Mary Spender
Sir, Reading Mr Bernard Levin's generous invitation to the lucky Miss Stein published in your columns today (September 22), I wondered whether you, Sir, might consider offering, as a prize in some future competition, perhaps, A Day With Your Very Own Correspondent(s).

If I were to win such a day, I think I would choose the following:

The morning to be spent browsing in bookshops, followed by luncheon with Philip Howard.

The afternoon at the All England Championships, Wimbledon, with Rex Bellamy.

The evening — how else — at Covent Garden, listening to anything so long as it was by Mozart, with Bernard Levin.

I think I might be too fatigued to dine afterwards.

Yours faithfully,
MARY SPENDER,
38 Napier Court,
Ranelagh Gardens, SW6,
September 22.

THE ARTS

TELEVISION

Are they really?

Reality, unlike videotaped television programmes about the mind's understanding and memory of it, cannot be played back — nor, alas, fast forwarded. It is, however, more easily recalled by many viewers than such programmes. We have had more time to know what to make of it but the programmes are catching up fast. Last night two were eager to take up almost two hours of our existence although, since they dashed, we needed our videos for both of them to replace normal reality provided by less mindful programmes.

In the third part of *The Mind Machine* (BBC1) Professor Colin Blakemore, now in his stride and a white jacket that makes him look as though he is about to tell us that it's Martini (whatever it was that was Martini — I forget) turned his lucid scientific mind to memory. As well as the fascinating and uncomplicated science, we were shown how terrible is the world of amnesia patients.

Meanwhile, on Channel 4, Professor Bernard Williams turned his lucid philosophical mind to memory in the opening programme of his series *What Is Truth?* Williams is potentially a good television philosopher. He looks like a cross between Barry Norman and a pensioned-off Gitanes advertisement model. He can use language and even behave almost like the rest of us, though on camera he is uncertain whether to smile and grimace like Norman or to show passive Gallic cool.

Not surprisingly, he set the scene for his series with more philosophical rigour than Blakemore had his, but not in a manner to woo the uncommitted. He did interview some stimulating scientists, including one who told us that a fly will try to mate with a bird if one crosses its path. But his use of an active scene of the shooting of an academic (in the mouth of the *Guardian* advertisement), to show variant perception of an event, was a laboured statement of the obvious.

Some might even view it as a more gratuitous use of television violence than the shooting of a television gangster. Academics on television normally die a less bloody death.

Andrew Hislop

An American repertory company celebrates its 25th anniversary and London sees the best from the Edinburgh Festival

Ensemble of excellence

JOE GIANNETTI

THEATRE

Tyrone Guthrie had gone mad. So pundits thought in 1963, when he and American producers Oliver Rea and Peter Zeisler founded the Guthrie Theater in Minneapolis and began producing classics in repertory. Twenty five years on, the Guthrie Theater is not only celebrating its silver anniversary with an 85 per cent renewal subscription audience, but Sir Tyrone is credited with inspiring the development of American regional theatre.

Guthrie stayed three years as artistic director in Minneapolis and returned periodically to stage productions until his death in 1971. His successors were variously faithful or faithless to the founder's vision of a resident company playing in repertory, and audience and critical response saw-sawed. Two years ago, Sir Tyrone's vision was reaffirmed when Texan Garland Wright became artistic director, with realistic commitments to playing in repertory most of the time to February season and to fostering a company of actors who want to settle in Minneapolis, combined with those who will contract for four to six months of rehearsal and performance.

In three productions seen over a weekend at the Guthrie, the theatre's work in its 25th season gives an impression of wondrous freshness. Garland Wright's staging of *Hamlet* and Vivian Matalon's of *The Glass Menagerie* achieve the ideal of presenting the plays as if for the first time, and the Minnesota playwright, Barbara Field, has created a meditation on Mary Shelley with

Frankenstein. Playing with Fire.

In Field's version, Frankenstein is pursued by his Creature to an Arctic wasteland, where their final dialogue on moral and psychological responsibility is interspersed with recollections from their past scenes from the novel involving four of its characters. One is left pondering responsibility in myriad reverberations, from Prometheus to Lear and his daughters, to Prospero and Ariel/Caliban and to Hamm and Clov.

The Glass Menagerie and *Hamlet* are notable for the imagination and precision with which the directors, actors and designers illuminate the texts. Tennessee Williams's narrative speeches are spoken by David Ossian with such clarity of emphasis and line that they sound startlingly fresh and vigorously poetic.

There are lovely individual touches — Polly Holliday as Amanda punctuating her dimples for the Gentleman Caller, Tracy Sallow as Laura pretending to dance with a glass animal, and the Wingfield family's conflicts reveal more love and more tender humour than is usual, so that their savagery is more bruising.

For Garland Wright's *Hamlet*, Douglas Stein's set is a black marbled floor with a wall that is sometimes opaque, sometimes transparent. There is an arched colonnade and a ramp, with a carwalk overhead. Props include ornate gold candelabra and chairs. Ann Hould Ward's costumes for

the women are elegantly reminiscent of Dior gowns in the Fifties, and for the men evoke Prussian to modern military uniforms and formal dress. Time and place are congenially maintained as then and now.

The first court scene is a lavish banquet. As Claudius speaks, Hamlet overturns a chair and stalks downstage; he cannot go off because guards block the exit. The Ghost is clearly surrounded by smoke which moves with him.

Rosencrantz and Guildenstern first appear to Hamlet with white caps, spats, and sweaters with a large "W" on them: Tweedledum and Tweedledee from Wittenburg. In horseplay between the three before Hamlet grows suspicious, one glimpses the happy student he was.

The Players are dressed and perform in *kabuki* style. At a memorial for Polonius, Ophelia rips off her mourning veil and reveals her madness. The detail work — the thoughtful, feeling focus from Hamlet to the courtiers and bewigged footmen — is exceptional, and the cumulative effect so riveting that one is loathe to leave at the end of four hours.

Zeljko Ivanek, one of America's finest young actors, adds to his growing front-rank reputation with a Hamlet who journeys from a youth crushed by mourning and a sense of betrayal to an angry and anguished sense that nothing he can do will make things right, to a sad acceptance of his fate. In all the plays, the quality of individual performance varies, but the ensemble prevails.

Holly Hill



Mourners: Zeljko Ivanek as Hamlet, with Jennifer Harmon as Gertrude, in Garland Wright's production

Tragedy and irreverent comedy make uneasy companions

Perrier Pick of the Fringe Donmar Warehouse

An Ancient Greek would have felt at home on the opening night of the Donmar's three-week season of Edinburgh's best. The evening begins with a severe tragedy, *Lorca's Blood Wedding*, where the fates of its human actors are determined by pitiless forces of nature; then in much the same way that the Athenians followed a tragedy (usually a trilogy) with a raucous Satyr play, the disrespectful Jeremy Hardy comes on as the second show to make

jokes about our own Olympian, the God of the bible.

Communicado's *Blood Wedding* rightly won a Fringe first. On a stage of white striped matting, against arches of white bead curtains and black walls, the Scottish company of nine give a thrilling production of this dark drama of society's vengeance upon an unpermitted love. Not homosexuality this time, but a bride's passion for her former lover, for whose sake she runs away from her less glamorous husband during the wedding feast. Pursued by the guests, the guilty pair are trapped in the moonlight and the same

knife kills both the lover and the husband.

David Johnston's translation into the Scottish idiom invests the action, and particularly the attitudes, with a vigorous credibility. "I'm away," mutters the limping groom (Robert Pickavance), snatching up the fatal knife on his way to the vineyard. To this Home Counties critic the grim struggle and rigid conventions of Andalusian transpire easily to the raw cadences of remote Caledonia. *Lorca's* figure of Death, as a sinister beggar woman, speaks what I take to be Gaelic, caressing her victims with a Synge-like lullaby.

The great merit of Gerrard Mulgrew's direction is not so much that his cast capture the thrust of the drama so powerfully but that they cross the trickier hurdle of animating the sung passages (bluesy music by Karen Wimburst) with such telling, stylized movement. At her first appearance the Bride's circular path suggests both docility and entrapment. For the chase the full company remain seated on a row of chairs and build excitement by voices alone. First rate performances by Graham Valentine (Father and hungry Moon), Barbara Rafferty (tight-lipped Mother) and Alyxis Daly in three

disarmingly comic roles as well as implacable Death.

Better to see *Jeremy Hardy* on a different evening. With his manner of a wisecracking university chap come back to address the old school, he makes shrewd thrusts against a range of follies, ingeniously plays with the form of the stand-up comic's routine — Frankie Howard an ancestor here — but whether you relish 90 minutes of his company will depend on the respect you feel for Andrew Lloyd Webber, God and Bernard Matthews.

Jeremy Kingston

John Percival reports on a French festival which is an object lesson for British organizers

Still swinging

JAZZ

Betty Carter
Ronnie Scott's Club

Harold Nicholas
Pizza on the Park

Back for her annual two-week residency, Betty Carter finds her career in full swing. Apart from her solo work, forthcoming releases include an album of duets with Carmen McRae and a more unlikely project: a tribute to Walt Disney, recorded with such pop luminaries as Ringo Starr.

Looking fit and relaxed, Carter exuded confidence during her first performance, backed by another of her extraordinarily gifted young trios. In place of Steven Scott and Winard Harper, she now has the services of the pianist Daryl Grant and drummer Troy Davis, with Ira Coleman still in charge at the bass. As usual, some of the most exhilarating moments came in the opening instrumental sequence.

Carter's own routine has expanded in the past 12 months, adding new shades to a repertoire which was in danger of sounding over-familiar. Her arrangements are as acute as ever, as she demonstrated in the ebb and flow of her first number, a mini-suite

whose scat vocals crackled against a constantly fluctuating tempo.

Her technique, admittedly, is not to everyone's taste. The eccentric off-centre phrasing on ballads, notably "Every Time We Say Goodbye", is occasionally too mannered for its own good. But there is undeniable magic in her cynical accounts of the battle of the sexes or the mock-melancholy of "Spring Can Really Hang You Up the Most".

The rowdy pin-striped elements near my table were clearly baffled. They might have been happier with the more conventional cabaret routine of Harold Nicholas at Pizza on the Park. Now in his mid-sixties, Nicholas is best remembered for his spectacular Hollywood dance routines with his brother Fayard. Veterans of the Cotton Club of the 1930s, the brothers went on to amazing stunts in films such as *Babes in Arms*.

Nicholas's set concentrated on singing rather than dancing, with standards ranging from "Wonderful" to "Autumn Leaves", and an Ellington medley. All genial fare, though the advance claim that he could out-sing Sammy Davis Jr proved excessive. Admirers would be better advised to catch him at the Empire Ballroom on Monday, when he will be recreating the glory of the Cotton Club with the help of Adelaide Hall and an 18-piece orchestra.

Clive Davis

CONCERT

Skills out of context

Hoepflich/Tan
Purcell Room

There are times when a plus equals a minus, and Monday night's recital in the South Bank's "Beethoven Plus" series was one of them. Beethoven himself occupied barely seven minutes of an evening which spent its time strenuously setting out to put his little Rondo in G into context.

What such a finely wrought piece, so exquisitely recreated at the fortepiano by Melvyn Tan, gains by being set in the midst of second and third rate contemporary compositions, I am not quite sure.

At the very least we could have been offered a printed programme, to substantiate the make-weight musical-historical information, or some notes about the fortepiano and antique clarinet which were being played with such dedication. A scrappy handbill is shamefully inadequate.

Who, an innocent member of the audience might well ask, is Hoffmeister? Grove's Dictionary provides six paragraphs about his life as a successful Viennese music publisher (Beethoven was among his clients) and just one about his own compositions.

The balance is justified. His Sonata in F for clarinet and piano was a work of shallow effect and laborious invention. It showed neither the flair of the Rossini Fantasia which preceded it, nor the virtuosic challenge of the Weber Grand Duo Concertant, which ended the short programme.

Hoffmeister's Sonata's one virtue lay in directing the ear to the quality of the playing itself. Eric Hoepflich, who designs, studies and collects as well as performs on early forms of the clarinet, showed the instrument as a more ascetic, more poignant predecessor, unusually powerful in cantabile, nimble as an oboe in passagework.

Melvyn Tan, who realized well that a paucity of musical matter begs the greatest possible imagination of manner, responded with playing which coaxed most eloquent repartee from the fortepiano and exploited its own pungent contrasts of timbre to a nicety.

Hilary Finch

DANCE

The size, scope and quality of this year's Biennale de la Danse in Lyons leave an English visitor green with envy. The theme is four centuries of dance in France, from its Renaissance origins to the latest new choreographers, lavishly presented in the course of three and a half busy weeks.

The opening gala exhibited the range of events in miniature. It began to music by Lully with Jean-Christophe Pato, splendid in a white and gold costume with plumed head dress, proudly sitting out Francine Lancelot's reconstruction of the solo originally performed in 1681 by Louis XIV, as Apollo, in the ballet *Le Triomphe de l'Amour*.

At the other extreme were not only a couple of premieres but even an "avant-premiere" of an extract from Régine Chopinot's next work, *K.O.K.* She and three of her male dancers, playfully costumed by Jean-Paul Gaultier, appeared as outrageously colourful boxers, while a tiny fourth man, played a white-suited referee, somewhat in the manner of Buster Keaton. The superbly defiant musical accompaniment for this specimen of violent comedy was the aria "Pace" from Verdi's *Forza del destino*, powerfully sung by Marie Aiger.

Quite a few stars from leading French companies were appearing. From Paris came Sylvie Guillem supported by Manuel Legris, in a strange Adagio act from Maguy Marin's *Eden*, and Wilfride Pliot and Jean Guizerix in a little ballet based on notes written about 1830 by Saint-Léon the older. Patrick Dupond brought the company he now directs in Nancy and Roland Petit's ballerina Dominique Khalfouni was immensely moving in a duet from *L'Arlesienne*.

Despite this competition, one of the evening's biggest successes was *Aurélien*, a dance for three men to traditional music from La Rochelle, done with tremendous spirit by young dancers from the Paris opera: Messieurs Belarbi, Ciappora and Romoli.

The one complaint might be that the programming by Guy Darmet, director of the Biennale and of the local Maison de la Danse, deliberately excluded any example of the glittery, toe-shoes and tutu show-off numbers usual at galas. What he prefers is to show the diversity of dance as an expressive medium, and the point was reinforced by film clips of past stars from Carlotta Zambelli in the 1900 to Jacques Charron, of the Comédie Française, partnering the comedian Robert Dhéry in a



Most impressive programme: Dominique Bagouet's Montpellier company in *Les Petites Pièces de Berlin*

parody of *Swan Lake* at the Bal des Artistes in 1959.

In one afternoon I was able to sit in an audience of interested and well-behaved school children (some of them scarcely out of the infants' class) to watch Jean-François Durouret's company in the slightly incoherent but attractively dream like adventure story, then hurry to a villa in the suburbs where Brygida Ochaim was attempting an evocation of Loie Fuller's dances which, at the end of the last century, anticipated many of the effects later choreographers have sought from costumes and lighting.

Another, more recent, reconstruction I saw was the Ballet du Nord in an evening devoted to honouring the Marquis de Cuevas, whose company did much for French and international ballet in the Forties and Fifties. Unfortunately, his reputation depended always on magnificent and highly individual dancers, who performed a mainly indifferent repertoire.

Only Balanchine's *Night Shadow* on this programme could offer real choreographic interest, and that was badly produced in a dreadful new décor. However, John Taras's *Piège de Lumière* found the company dancing better, with a performance of awe-inspiring brilliance and apparent ease by Elisabeth Platel (a guest from the Paris Opéra) in the long,

difficult leading role. Apart from that, its value was simply that of letting a new generation experience a kind of ballet they could otherwise only read about.

The programme that impressed me most was given by the young choreographer Dominique Bagouet and his company from Montpellier. *Les Petites Pièces de Berlin* (so called because it was a co-production with the Werkstatt Berlin) consists of five dances on a stage furnished like a series of waiting rooms, but with colourful backdrops by William Wilson covered with strange semi-representational drawings, like a child's fantasy run riot.

In this environment the dancers, differently but always strikingly dressed for each episode, act out relationships, sometimes for only two or three at a time, sometimes for all nine of them. The movement is by turns bizarre, disquieting, comic, erotic; but always fascinating, strikingly original without ever seeming to strain after effect.

Bagouet himself links the sections with a series of solos, again very wide ranging in mood, each of them encapsulating, elaborating and extending elements from the one before. This is a choreographer of unusual gifts, which, like much else on show in Lyons, have never been seen in Britain.

What I saw was only a sample from a festival that comprises 18

different programmes on stage plus five public balls (the ordinary public can and does join in the historical, regional or social dances), non-stop dance videos every morning and afternoon, five exhibitions and a series of dance films.

Several things make all this possible. One is the existence in Lyons, since 1980, of a theatre specifically for dance which has built a strong local support. Another is generous funding from the city and central government, allowing a budget of 13 million francs and the free use of 10 local theatres.

Britain's festival organizers, from Frank Dunlop in Edinburgh to Val Bourne at Dance Umbrella, are unlikely to get conditions like that. But in one respect they could learn from Guy Darmet, namely the way each Biennale adopts a theme that will interest and partly educate its public. American modern dance began the series in 1984; German dance followed in 1986; for the future there are plans to celebrate the route followed by the silk traders between Europe and the Orient.

This year's Biennale continues until October 6, and readers interested in going in subsequent years might like to note that package deals covering transport, hotel and theatre tickets are available from all parts of France and several European cities.

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MEDIA & MARKETING

On the right wavelength?

Now, be honest — what do you know about the BBC's Radio Show? Do you know what it is, where it is taking place and when? If not,

OPINION

Nigel Andrew

counted as additional expenditure. The show's organizers expect between 100,000 and 120,000 visitors to the exhibition over the nine days, and they will be paying £5 a head entrance, as well as the spending money they bring with them. There is a potential profit to the BBC of perhaps £500,000 here. As Jock Gallagher, the show's co-director, says: "It's a fairly hard-headed business operation, as well as a PR exercise."

This is very odd, for at least two reasons. First, the BBC has been plugging the show vigorously on all its radio networks, which between them reach two thirds of the population in any given week. Second, it is widely believed — at least in radio circles — that radio has recently been enjoying something of a renaissance, and that public awareness of the medium is higher than it has been for years.

The Radio Show is a very big venture. For the first nine days of October, BBC Radio is taking over the Earls Court exhibition centre and turning it into "a radio listener's paradise". The place will be swarming with radio personalities, programmes of all sorts will be broadcast from the show — some with opportunities of audience participation — and a huge display telling The Story of Radio will culminate in manufacturers' exhibits of the latest in audio technology.

There is big money in all this. In round figures the BBC put up some half a million pounds to stage the show, but that was shared with a commercial organization, PAISS Ltd, ski show specialists, who were brought in to ensure additional glitz. These initial costs have already been covered by sales of exhibition space to the audio company and other exhibitors, who between them will be investing some £2.5 million. In addition it will be costing the BBC perhaps another £250,000 to broadcast programmes from the show, but that cannot all be

tion over the nine days, and they will be paying £5 a head entrance, as well as the spending money they bring with them. There is a potential profit to the BBC of perhaps £500,000 here. As Jock Gallagher, the show's co-director, says: "It's a fairly hard-headed business operation, as well as a PR exercise."

The aim, he says ballistically, is to "heighten the profile of radio, beat the drum, create a new sense of excitement about the medium". If so, it seems a strangely inward-looking way to go about it, a show in which radio celebrates itself and preaches its madoubled virtues to the already converted.

The show came into being simply to celebrate 21 years of the present organization of network radio — Radios 1 to 4 and the locals — which is rather an odd thing to celebrate, especially as Radios 2 to 4 are essentially very much older.

And how many are there, even among committed listeners, who have many strong notions of "BBC Radio" as such and in general, as against their own particular listening pattern, their own preferred programmes and forms? The Radio Show used to be a regular annual event, until it was scrapped the year before the birth of this new style Radio Show is commemorating. It looks, on the face of it, something of a backward-looking gesture to revive it, but this show will be thoroughly up to date, both in terms of presentation and technology. It will be quite an experience for the visitor, and it deserves to succeed. I'm sure I'm going to enjoy the show. I just wonder if I'll meet anyone who isn't already a fully paid-up radio fan.

Nigel Andrew is radio critic of The Listener.

Enter the custom-built mag

During the next few days, a glossy magazine called *Catalyst* will fall with a thud on the doorsteps of 800,000 homes throughout Britain. Naturally all the front covers are identical — a John Gashan painting of autumn — and so, on the face of it, are the pieces between the covers: polished, pleasant and urbane articles.

But this magazine, published quarterly for Austin Rover, which has sunk £1 million in it, is fundamentally different, for *Catalyst* is tailor-made according to the declared wishes of each recipient. Mr Jones may have sections on travel, sport and entertainment; Mrs Brown next door may read three wholly different 16-page sections about food and drink, homes and gardens and female interest.

In May, every one of the 800,000 people (who are mainly Austin Rover owners who bought their cars new) was asked which three of these six sections he or she would like to see in his/her own individual copy of *Catalyst* later in the year. For the non-mathematical, there are 20 different possible combinations.

The chosen sections occupy the central 48 pages of each 88-page issue, an individual filling sandwiched between general features which everyone gets. The travel part was the most popular choice, selected by 25 per cent, and the women's section the least popular, chosen by only 8.5 per cent.

Catalyst — edited by Michael Parkinson, who now drives around in a £23,000 Rover Sterling which goes with the job — is believed to be the first custom-built magazine.

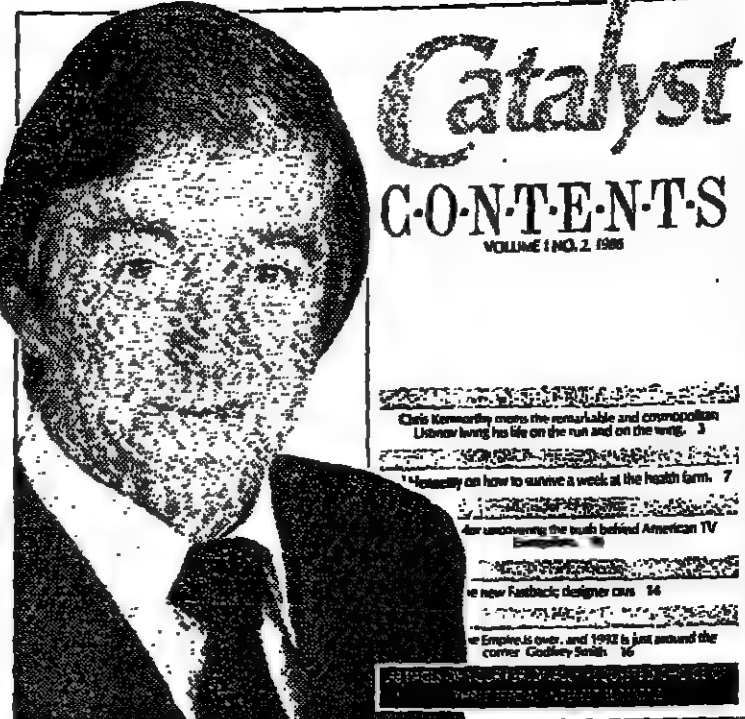
The latest glossy giveaway magazine has an unusual gimmick: readers choose the contents, says Paul Donovan

Unique in publishing, its implications extend beyond it. It is the ultimate in consumer sovereignty, or merely a shrewd marketing play for targeted advertising?

Peter Knight, Austin Rover's direct marketing manager and in charge of the project at its Coventry headquarters, is enthusiastic. "*Catalyst* is free, and there are thousands of free magazines. So we decided to do something quite different."

"This is a long-term programme to maintain contact with our owners when they're motorists, not car buyers — they're only car buyers every three years or so. We wanted to stay in touch but not annoy them. We are all fed up with junk mail and we wanted to give people what they actually want rather than something they would simply throw away. It's getting towards the ultimate in marketing. We don't want to blow our own trumpets, but no one else in the world has a programme like this."

The concept of a custom-built magazine came from Systems Market Link, a company in Marlow, Buckinghamshire, which organizes



A catalyst for real change? Michael Parkinson and his new product

and maintains the Austin Rover database of one million owners. It is also responsible for assembling the magazine: 800,000 individual letters (laser-printed in Manchester) and all the sections of the magazine (printed in Poole) are bound together (in Daventry) and then posted (from Swindon). The postage bill alone is £296,000.

Alan Coren, who edited *Punch* for 10 years and now edits the revitalized *Listener*, finds the notion of a tailor-made magazine repugnant.

"It destroys surprise, eccentricity and quirkiness — all the things that are the essence of magazines."

"It purports to be consumer-led. Actually it's advertising-led. It enables *Catalyst* to promise certain sorts of readers to advertisers in a precise way. In asking a consumer to choose in advance what he or she wants to see, it is getting him to behave as an advertising director."

He added: "I believe a magazine should be run tyrannically. Televis-

ion and newspapers may have to do market research, but a magazine should be what the editor wants. Magazines are for dipping into and finding something unexpected to read."

While it may be true that many successful titles do stem from a strong personality, it is also true that *Catalyst* is a product of increasingly specialist media.

Newspapers appear in a multitude of sections, making it easier to choose and to discard in advance. Commercial radio in Britain is expected to become increasingly targeted towards particular segments of the population, as in the United States. The new generation of satellite TV will enable viewers to choose in advance which services to subscribe to.

All of which suggests fragmentation, and far fewer shared experiences than in the past.

Even for editor Parkinson, who is making a return to the magazine world which he left more than 20 years ago after being deputy editor of the now defunct magazines *Town* and *Topic*, the tailor-made concept lacks a certain appeal.

"It's something they've thought out. It's beyond the reasoning of any journalist. Contributors still have to be paid the same, whether they appear in the common parts or in one of the sections. Readers might receive only three sections at home, but there are still six for me to edit and commission."

"I think perhaps the choice of yourself sections might just be a gimmick to get it launched."

How newsagents can wrap up their latest problem

Newsagents are beginning to dread weekends, when Saturday and Sunday papers arrive at their shops in a growing variety of sections to be fitted together. Could polythene be the answer to their problem?

Wrapping newspapers in a polythene cover is common in the United States. It not only keeps the various parts of a paper together, but also guards against the weather and any damage during distribution. Magazines, with higher cover prices to protect, are frequently wrapped in Britain,

but so far only one national newspaper, *Today*, uses polythene wrapping.

"In this country we are very slow to catch on," said Gwen Leonard, distribution director of Beds, Bucks and Herts Newspapers. She would like to use wrapping to bring a little order to the leaflets, 25 this week, inserted in the four free newspapers that her company distributes. Shrink wrapping the whole package, including the newspaper, is expensive and "would slow down the run by two or three hours". An easier method would be to

Could polythene covers solve the difficulties caused as the weekend papers divide into more sections?

pre-wrap the leaflets in a plastic envelope.

The different methods of wrapping available include polybagging (using individual polythene bags), film and sleeve wrapping (stretching rolls of polythene over copies or bundles of a publication)

and shrink wrapping (totally encapsulating them in a cling film baked in a high intensity ultra-violet oven).

According to Alan Grice, technical director of the print wrapping specialist Pakseal, the impetus for national newspapers to wrap has diminished

now that they go by road to large wholesale depots. When they were thrown out at railway stations, covers made more sense.

Shrink wrapping is expensive in time, capital and energy. But other types may catch on, particularly in the regions. In the US and on the Continent, small rural newspapers, with runs of around 30,000, are individually wrapped for delivery to remote areas.

George Outram in Glasgow is typical of regional publishers which need to deliver

directly to newsagents. It now has a Stretchfix machine, from the Swiss manufacturer Fering, in its production line, automatically wrapping bundles of the *Evening Times* in a cling-film type substance.

News International's *Today* wraps bundles of 125 copies of the paper at its plant in Poyle, near London. *Today's* general manager, Liam Kane, says it gives a "firmer bind" for strapping, but wonders if even this small outlay is a necessary expense.

Michael Duncan

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For more information and an informal discussion call Fiona Makowski, on 0689 52142 during office hours or 01-579 7680 evenings, or write to her at: Suite 3, ECP House, Starts Hill Avenue, Farnborough Way, Orpington, Kent BR6 7TR.

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MEDIA & MARKETING

Small screen money matters

The big boys are consolidating their hold on computer magazines, one of the most lucrative niches in publishing. Next month Reed Business Publications launches its latest, *PC Tech*, a monthly aimed at 12,000 technicians who support office PC users. In May it relaunched *PC Magazine*, licensed from Ziff Davis of New York and selling 500,000 copies in the United States.

PC Magazine used to be published in Britain by Reed's arch rival, VNU. Bob Yeo, Reed's development manager, says Ziff Davis was not happy with the way VNU, the British subsidiary of a big Dutch company, handled the magazine. So Reed pitched for the monthly and won.

At stake is an estimated \$60 million-worth of advertising in the business computer magazines. In all, some 150 magazines distribute 534 million copies a year. Two-thirds of this circulation is accounted for by four big operators: VNU, Reed, EMAP and CW Publications.

A decade ago, Britain's fledgling computer magazine industry was dominated by whizz-kid programmers who had branched out into publishing. In 1980 VNU entered the fray, anxious to expand into English language publishing.

The battle for the market share is now intense. "This area has become much more competitive," says Graham Andrews, VNU's managing director. "Everyone moves very quickly to launch when there is an opportunity."

This week Focus Magazines was reportedly looking for buyers for its flagship monthly, *Your Computer*, where circulation has slumped from 200,000 to 40,000. VNU could be in the market. According to Andrews, it is negotiating the purchase of a further "Elm plus" title.

Andrew Lycett

David Housham receives signals from Channel 4 in search of the culturally disinclined

The *South Bank Show*, *Omnibus* and *Arena* are three of the best known "brand names" in television. The reputations and influence of these arts programmes are undoubted and impressive; yet their audiences are relatively small.

Research by the IBA this summer referred to average ratings of 1.4 million ITV viewers for the *SBS* and 1.2 million for BBC2's *Arena* at the start of 1988.

Only a quarter of the viewers surveyed were interested in arts programming, almost half were not, and the rest had no opinion either way. In spite of this, 41 per cent said television was their main source of information about the arts, against 18 per cent for newspapers.

An initiative to build a wider



audience for the arts on television takes off next Wednesday at 9.15pm in the shape of *Signals* on Channel 4, the arts programming of which has until now given scant indication of concern for the culturally disinclined.

The editor of *Signals*, Roger Graef, initially displayed a similar lack of enthusiasm for his new job, which he says he turned down three times.

He was "begged" to do it by Andrew Holmes, whose independent production company, Holmes Associates, has won the 22-week contract in one of C4's increasingly common tendered commissions.

In the 1970s, Graef pioneered a painstaking form of fly-on-the-wall documentary making, involving many months surreptitiously coaxing political institutions into revealing their true inner nature.

Since his acclaimed and controversial apothecosis, the 1982 BBC series, *Police*, Graef has been crossing into feature film making, and had not intended diverting from a new career as a drama director, but for two distractions.

The first, last year, was the job of replacing Jeremy Isaacs as C4's chief executive. Graef, a vociferous campaigner for the setting up of C4 and a board member during its first five years on air, was one of the finalists picked by Michael Grade.

It is Graef's deep commitment to a founder's belief in C4's mission to "reach the parts other channels don't reach" that eventually persuaded him to succumb to the distraction of editing *Signals*. That and the "variables of the film world, and the chance to fill 22 hours of airtime".

Practically the first decision made



Roger Graef: Persuaded by a deep commitment to a Channel 4 founder's belief in the mission to "reach the parts other channels don't reach"

State of the art viewing

at the onset of C4 by its commissioning editor for arts, Michael Kustow, was that he would eschew an *Arena* or *Omnibus*-style weekly arts strand.

Kustow's policy has been to concentrate on performance, often in modern and esoteric areas, and to encourage artists to participate with programme-makers in experimentation with forms of TV presentation.

He has had some critical successes, such as the excellent *Dance On 4* seasons, but his dedicated audiences, though large in arts-world terms, have sometimes verged on the insignificant in the terms of a mass medium.

Kustow's hasty counter-intuitive announcement of the weekly show

tender, within weeks of Grade's arrival, was a clear sign that the new boss (formerly a champion of the *SBS* work "friendly" to a general audience; or encouraging new work by artists expanding the aesthetic potential of TV itself for a dedicated minority audience) ITV is currently adopting the former approach, interpreting public service in terms of broad cultural appeal rather than a programme's cultural value.

Some independent producers, seeing *Signals* eating up a third of Kustow's budget, fear that the chances of future C4 achievement in that second public service category look grim. In an ideal world there would be room for both.

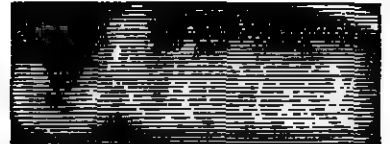
These are among the shows that have been killed off to make way for *The Late Show*, the new BBC2 late-night, arts-led magazine on Mondays to Thursdays next year, and against which Graef and Archer stress they will not be competing.

cent in the IBA survey who felt that "arts programmes cater for viewers who already know about the arts", and the 50 per cent who opined that "the programmes (eg. the *SBS*) tended to go over their heads".

Graef's classic Wheldonsque, 1960s BBC take-the-arts-to-the-people approach is exemplified in the planned third show in the new series in which five modern dance troupes will be performing in a closed-off back street in Leeds, with dancing competitions in nearby discos.

Other shows early on will tackle typography, the sex and TV debate, and the music of Steve Reich — the latter show based on an existing, unscreened programme.

The channel had hoped to keep down the cost of *Signals* by using it to



stretchers shows already bought. Graef has used his influence to get a bigger budget and reduce the amount of outside material to five bought-in pieces and eight sub-commissions from other independents.

Signals will not use a regular viewer-friendly presenter, but is pinning much of its accessibility to humour, according to Graef's co-editor, John Archer, formerly the BBC's outstanding producer of arts journalism shows like *Saturday Review*, *Review* and *Did you See?*

These are among the shows that have been killed off to make way for *The Late Show*, the new BBC2 late-night, arts-led magazine on Mondays to Thursdays next year, and against which Graef and Archer stress they will not be competing.

Archer jocularly hopes *Signals* will not prove to be "the last stand before the onslaught (of the philistine satellite TV era)", but the crux of the late 1980s public service debate lies here.

Which interpretation of public service is more valuable: for example, trying to make the arts and artists "friendly" to a general audience; or encouraging new work by artists expanding the aesthetic potential of TV itself for a dedicated minority audience? ITV is currently adopting the former approach, interpreting public service in terms of broad cultural appeal rather than a programme's cultural value.

Some independent producers, seeing *Signals* eating up a third of Kustow's budget, fear that the chances of future C4 achievement in that second public service category look grim. In an ideal world there would be room for both.

BYLINES

NOW, the news

Actors rest, journalists freelance, and marketing men become consultants. Out-of-work television executives used to become independent producers, but nowadays they get jobs in satellite television. The latest is Paul McKee, who quit earlier this year as deputy managing director of Yorkshire Television when passed over in the succession to Paul Fox. McKee is to be chief executive of NOW News Ltd, the company set up by LBC, Crown Communications and Independent Radio News to run the £11.5 million-a-year news service for British Satellite Broadcasting.

"We have a lot of experience running a news operation at a fraction of the cost of the BBC's, and of sustaining two-hour-long news sequences," says LBC's editorial director, Peter Thornton. "But we had to convince BSB we could turn that into television, and we needed a chief executive with lots of television news experience." McKee was a senior executive at ITN before joining Yorkshire, and will be working closely with another former ITN colleague, BSB's Bob Hunter.

Hard faction

For all the controversy the genre creates, a familiarity with "faction" at the BBC does no harm to a chap's career. The newly-appointed head of science features, Graham Massey, has been merrily mixing fact and fiction ever since he quit as editor of *Horizon* in 1985. As executive producer in BBC drama's "special features" unit he was responsible for *Threads*, set in the aftermath of a nuclear strike, and the recent reprise of Roger Bannister's triumph, *The Four Minute Mile*.

Punch editor out

Punch magazine, bedevilled by declining circulation, yesterday lost its second editor this year when Mr David Taylor abruptly left. It follows the resignation of Alan Coren, who left to edit *The Listener*. Taylor had wrought changes, but had failed to appeal to younger readers. Russell Davies, Taylor's deputy, will edit *Punch* while owner United Newspapers searches for a successor.

Reel things

The growing size and complexity of the media has defeated the production team of Channel 4's *The Media Show*. Editor Alex Graham says the programme will concentrate mainly on film and television in future. "If you try to give due weight to every medium you end up covering none properly," he says, which helps to explain why all three items in the first

edition of the new series on October 9 are about film.

Briefing...

The Home Office has given the Independent Broadcasting Authority permission to advertise franchises for four more local radio stations, in Yeovil, the Borders, Dumfries and Milton Keynes... Daily newspaper readership was up in the first half of this year, according to the latest National Readership Survey. *The Times*, *Today* and *The Guardian* all showed a marked improvement in July over their average for the six months from February-July.

Grey Communications has bought The Taylor Partnership, with offices in Leicester, Manchester and London and billings of £20 million. Grey already owns another regional advertising agency, Newton and Godin in Tumbidge Wells, and plans to buy more... Maurice Levy, chairman of giant French agency Publicis, last week backed British reservations about EBC plans to relegate television advertising to blocks between programmes rather than "natural breaks". Roger Bolton, editor of Thames TV's Gibraltar programme *Death on the Rock*, is among founder members of the new Campaign for Quality Television, which is opposed to government plans to dismantle a system that has produced "reasonably good television" in favour of one the campaign says will produce "incomparably worse television".

Nick Higham

Employee Communications Executive up to \$20K inc.

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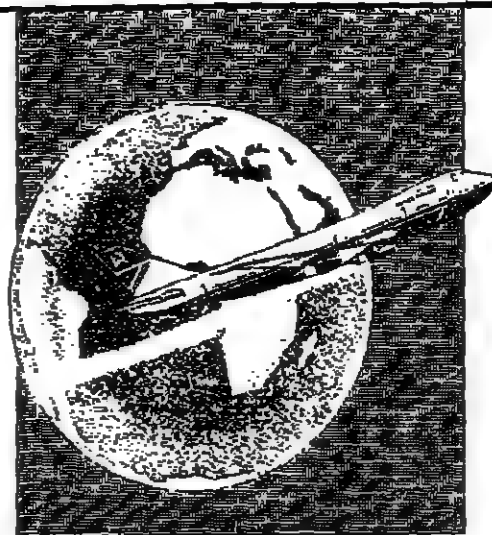
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LA CRÈME DE LA CRÈME

LA CRÈME CONTINUES
ON PAGE 32.

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TELEVISION AND RADIO

Compiled by Peter Dear
and Greta Carslaw

BBC1

- 6.30 Olympic Breakfast Time** introduced by Steve Rider. Includes the final of the men's 200m at 7.00, and the closing stages of the team show-jumping final. National and international news at 7.05 and 8.00; regional news and weather at 8.50 and 7.55. **8.30** Regional news and weather followed by **Dynasty** Grandstand presented by Bob Wilson and Sally Jones. Show-jumping, judo, hockey, tennis and boxing. Includes news and weather at 10.00.
- 10.25 Children's BBC** with Andy Crane begins with **Play School** presented by Chloe Ashcroft and Nick Mercer (r). **10.50 The Parishers** with the voice of Leonard Rossiter (r). **10.55 Five to Eleven**, Maya Angelou with a reading (r).
- 11.00** News and weather followed by **Olympic Grandstand**. Further news and action from Seoul.
- 12.00** News and weather followed by **SLD Conference**. Live coverage from Blackpool of the Social and Liberal Democrats' Conference which includes the debate on the health service. The commentators are Sir Robin Day, David Dimbleby and Vivian Vincent and Angharad Meir (r).
- 1.00 One O'Clock News** with Michael Buerk. Weather. **1.30** **Neighbours**. How will Charlene and Scott break their news to their parents? And Paul's plans for Gail go awry.
- 1.50 Olympic Grandstand** with Bob Wilson and Sally Jones featuring tennis highlights of the men's singles semifinals. **3.00** **Valerie**. American domestic comedy series starring Valerie Harper (r). **3.25** **Go for It** Family theme programme presented by Robbie Vincent and Angharad Meir (r).
- 3.50 Two by Two**. The third of 15 natural history programmes introduced by Jenny Powell.

BBC2

- 6.55 Open University: Maths - Fractions 7.20 Science - Superflow**. Ends at 7.45. **9.00** **Chesley**.
- 9.50 Daytime on Two** French conversation **10.05** For the very young **10.20** A history of bread **10.40** Butterflies and moths of Scotland **11.10** Words and pictures **11.15** Learning to read **11.35** Arithmetic progressions **11.55** Christian forgiveness **12.15** Science - colour **12.35** Open learning **1.00** For people with learning difficulties.
- 1.25 Pigeon Street (r)**. **1.40 Zig Zag (r)**. **2.00** News and weather followed by **Storytime (r)**.
- 2.15 SLD Conference**. Live coverage from Blackpool of the Social and Liberal Democrats' Conference. News and weather at **3.00** and **3.50**.
- 5.15 Thomas Carlyle Lived Here**. Malcolm Muggeridge visits Carlyle's Chelsea home (r).
- 5.30 Mission Impossible**. The agents have only 24 hours to stop top secret defence plans falling into enemy hands (r).

TV LONDON

- 6.00 TV-am** begins with News and The Morning Programme.
- 7.00 News** followed by **Good Morning Britain** presented by Anne Diamond and Richard Keys. After Nine includes a discussion on fears, phobias and panic.
- 9.25 Thames News and weather** **9.30 Runway**. Travel and general knowledge quiz. The questionmaster is Richard Madeley.
- 10.00** **Onstage in London**. Phil Donahue chairs a discussion on the "promotion of homosexuality" clause in the 1986 Local Government Act. Among those taking part are Ian McCallum, Michael Cashman, Sir Rhodes Boyson and the Rev David Rushworth-Smith **10.50** News headlines **10.55** **Thames News and weather**
- 11.00** **Olympics 1988** presented by Dickie Davies and Hazel Irvine. And final of the men's 400m: the pole vault; and the women's 400m hurdles. Other sports featured include tennis, hockey, basketball and canoeing.
- 1.00** **News at One** with John Snow **1.20** **Thames News and weather**
- 1.30** **Olympics 1988**. Further live action and highlights from Seoul.
- 2.00** **A Country Practice**. A medical drama series set in a remote Australian sheep township.
- 3.00** **Take the High Road**. Will Carol become a fugitive from justice? **3.15** **Thames News and weather** **3.25** **Thames News and weather** **3.30** **Sons and Daughters**. Australian family drama series.
- 4.00** **The Raggy Dolls** **4.10** **Tube** **4.20** **Donahue** and the Three Musketeers (r). **4.45** **Tokyo** presented by Sandi Toksvig.
- 5.15** **Olympics 1988** introduced by Nick Owen and Alison Holloway. Highlights of the day's events.
- 5.45** **News with Fionn Armstrong**

CHANNEL 4

- 7.00** **Olympics 1988** presented by Nick Owen and Alison Holloway begins with live coverage of the men's 200m final; and at 8.00 the 400m event in the decathlon.
- 9.30** **Schools: France and the French language** **9.52** **The New Forest** **10.00** **Harvesting** **10.30** **Madness** **10.45** **Private school pupils swap places with those from an inner-city comprehensive for a day** **11.05** **Part two of The Finding** **11.25** **Part two of The Finding** **11.41** **Long-distance communication**
- 12.00** **Just 4 Fun: Hand in Hand (r)** **12.30** **Business Daily** **1.00** **Sesame Street** **2.00** **Channel 4** **2.10** **Racing from Newmarket**. Coverage of the 2.05, 2.35, 3.10, 3.40 and 4.10 races.
- 4.30** **Fifteen to One**. **4.50** **Cartoon Alphabet**. Cartoons with characters beginning with the letter K.
- 5.30** **Mork & Minky**. American comedy series.

Birds of another feather

TELEVISION CHOICE

Andy Armitage's comedy **Starlings** (BBC2, 9.30pm) combines a modern Pymmalion story with an acute analysis of social pretension. **Starlings**, one his characters reminds us, are birds who copy other birds when it suits them to do so and almost everybody in the drama pretends at some point to be what they are not. Gary (Michael Maloney) has a humdrum job in a biscuit factory in Manchester. To their little working class terrace house, his mother imports life-size cardboard cut-outs of the royal family and assembles them in the bedroom. When Gary is made redundant, he enrolls on a training course for butlers, smooths out his northern accent and learns how to defer graciously. Voted Top Butler of the year, he enters the employ of a rough diamond Yorkshire millionaire and his socially ambitious wife. Here he meets and falls for the lovely Eliza-



Michael Maloney as Gary, the social climbing butler with Lynsey Baxter as Elizabeth in **Starlings** (BBC2, 9.30pm)

both (Lynsey Baxter), a London Sloane who lines Gary up for the Eliza Doolittle treatment. Predictably, perhaps, the relationship founders ("you gave me vowels, contacts and clothes and left the feelings out", Gary complains) but before Gary has assumed a bogus old school tie and become someone in the City and got his parents into Buckingham Palace by having his dad pretend

Peter Waymark

Radio 1

WVF stereo MW (medium wave)
News on the half-hour from 6.30am to 6.55pm, then at 10.00 and 12.00 midnight.

6.30 **Adrian John** 7.00 **Simon Mayo** 8.30 **Simon Bates** 12.30 **Newsbeat** (Simon Bates) **12.45** **Gary Davies** 3.00 **Steve Wright** 5.30 **Newsbeat** 5.45 **Bruno Brookes** 7.30 **Liz Kershaw** 10.00-12.00 **John Peel**

Radio 2

WVF stereo MW (medium wave)
News on the hour 4.00am-6.00am. **6.30** **Chris Smith** 7.30 **David Hamilton** 8.30 **Johnnie Walker** 9.30 **Johnnie Walker** 10.30 **Johnnie Walker** 11.30 **Johnnie Walker** 12.30 **Johnnie Walker** 1.30 **Johnnie Walker** 2.30 **Johnnie Walker** 3.30 **Johnnie Walker** 4.30 **Johnnie Walker** 5.30 **Johnnie Walker** 6.30 **Johnnie Walker** 7.30 **Johnnie Walker** 8.30 **Johnnie Walker** 9.30 **Johnnie Walker** 10.30 **Johnnie Walker** 11.30 **Johnnie Walker** 12.30 **Johnnie Walker** 1.30 **Johnnie Walker** 2.30 **Johnnie Walker** 3.30 **Johnnie Walker** 4.30 **Johnnie Walker** 5.30 **Johnnie Walker** 6.30 **Johnnie Walker** 7.30 **Johnnie Walker** 8.30 **Johnnie Walker** 9.30 **Johnnie Walker** 10.30 **Johnnie Walker** 11.30 **Johnnie Walker** 12.30 **Johnnie Walker** 1.30 **Johnnie Walker** 2.30 **Johnnie Walker** 3.30 **Johnnie Walker** 4.30 **Johnnie Walker** 5.30 **Johnnie Walker** 6.30 **Johnnie Walker** 7.30 **Johnnie Walker** 8.30 **Johnnie Walker** 9.30 **Johnnie 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MARKETS	THE POUND
FT 30 Share 1459.1 (+12.8)	US dollar 1.6770 (+0.0100)
FT-SE 100 1808.0 (+15.3)	W German mark 3.1528 (+0.0147)
USM (Datastream) 159.61 (-0.30)	Trade-weighted 75.6 (+0.4)

Executive Editor
David Brewerton

Edelman demands answers

Mr Asher Edelman, the Wall Street financier, is considering asking the Stock Exchange and the Department of Trade and Industry to take action against Lomho, after the weekend statement by Mr Roland "Tiny" Rowland, the chief executive, which placed a £4 billion break-up value on the group - 800p a share.

Solicitors acting for Mr Edelman have demanded that Mr Rowland provide a full explanation.

A spokesman for Macfarlanes, the London solicitor, said: "If we do not receive satisfactory answers to our questions, our client, as a major shareholder, has a right to complain to the appropriate authorities. The ultimate sanction could mean a de-listing of the shares." Lomho had not responded last night.

Mecca's 9.3%

Mecca, the leisure group, disclosed that it now speaks for 9.3 per cent of Picassura, amid speculation that it was poised to raise its £600 million hostile bid. Its offer has been extended until October 11.

Evered ahead

Evered Holdings, the industrial group, increased profits in the half-year to end-June from £8.7 million to £13.6 million. A dividend of 1.5p (1.25p) was declared.

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STOCK MARKETS

New York	Dow Jones	2084.82 (-0.35)
Tokyo	Nikkei Average	27499.56 (+185.81)
Hong Kong	Hong Kong	2466.27 (+11.89)
Amsterdam	Gen	270.2 (+0.2)
Sydney	AO	1543.3 (-0.2)
Frankfurt	Commerzbank	1589.1 (+3.1)
Brussels	General	5244.9 (+41.4)
Paris	CAC	3753.8 (+0.5)
Zurich	SIX Gen	478.7 (+1.5)
London	FT-A All-Share	934.21 (+8.80)
FT-30		1018.80 (+7.57)
FT-100		1808.0 (+15.3)
FT-1000		96.36 (+0.26)
FT-10000		87.78 (+0.45)

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

RISES:	
Buzz	774½ (+180)
MAM	3200 (+100)
Canover	4000 (+100)
AC Holdings	77½ (+150)
Amstrad	512½ (+30)
Wellcome	501½ (+30)
Johnson Matthey	3450 (+100)
J. Neil	230½ (+300)
Parker Knoll A	8050 (+350)
Rank Organisation	880½ (+150)
Reckitt & Colman	887½ (+110)
BOC	420½ (+100)
Hardanger	8950 (+150)
Davies & Newman	5000 (+270)
Granger	5000 (+270)

FALLS:	
Gresham House	4000 (-150)
Next	1820 (-180)
Young A	5000 (-100)
Henderson Admin	7150 (-100)
Worcester	1950 (-100)

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base	12%
3-month interbank	12.11%
3-month eligible bills	12.11%
buying rate	
US Prime Rate	10%
Federal Funds	8¼%
3-month Treasury	7.29-7.27%
30-year bonds	100%-100½%

CURRENCIES

London:	New York:
£/\$	\$/£
1.6770	0.5968
DM/\$	\$/DM
2.2363	0.4472
SwF/\$	\$/SwF
2.0363	0.4911
FF/\$	\$/FF
6.5596	0.1524
Yen/\$	\$/Yen
163.26	0.0061
Index	75.6
ECU/\$	1.3663
SDR/\$	0.774178

GOLD

London Fixing:	
AM \$387.00 pm \$387.10	
close \$395.75-396.25	
236.25	
New York:	
Comex \$394.50-395.00	

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Nov) pm	\$12.95bbl (\$13.43)
Denotes latest trading price	

THE TIMES

STOCK WATCH

0898 141 141

● Market news on Stock-watch yesterday included: August trade figures turned the market round but retail chain Next (02674) lost 14p on a marginal increase in profits and Burton (02612) fell in sympathy; Sun Alliance (02119) was 12p dearer on news of a stake; Pearson (01896) rose 6p on continuing bid speculation; Bass (01835) put on 19p after a broker's recommendation. ● Recent additions include Cupid (03453). ● Calls charged 5p for 8 seconds peak, 12 seconds off peak inc. VAT.

£1.3bn deficit removes base rate pressure

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

A sharp narrowing of Britain's trade deficit last month cheered the financial markets and removed any upward pressure on base rates. The City now mainly shares the Chancellor's view that base rates can remain at their present 12 per cent level for some months.

Some analysts believe that, if the pound's strength persists, rates could come down before the end of the year. Sterling rose by nearly two pence to close above DM3.15 yesterday, and the sterling index rose by 0.4 points to 75.6.

Dealers said the trade figures, while bad in absolute terms, came as a relief. Taken with last week's money supply figures, which showed a sharp drop in August bank lending, the markets are prepared to give the Chancellor the benefit of the doubt.

The current account deficit fell to £1.31 billion last month - its second largest ever - from the record £2.15 billion deficit in July.

This was slightly better than average market expectations and much better than forecasts of a £3 billion August current account deficit.

"There was quite a bit of relief when the figures came out,

after some of the horror stories," said Mr Gwyn Hache, economist at James Capel.

Tension was heightened with a wire service message that the Chancellor would issue a statement on the figures. But the statement merely fulfilled a promise by Mr Lawson to comment on the trade data during the IMF meeting in West Berlin.

"It is distressing that these figures could be seen as good news," said Mr Richard Jeffrey, director of economic research at Hoare Govett. "It was still the second worst figure and imports are alarmingly high. But we won't be in the latest three months.

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looking for base rates to rise further."

The main feature was a drop in imports to £8.36 billion, after a July jump to £9.43 billion. Exports slipped from £6.78 billion to £6.75 billion.

The result was a fall in the visible trade deficit to £1.81 billion last month from £2.65 billion in July. The surplus on invisibles, estimated at £500 million, was unchanged. The surplus on oil, hit in July by the Piper Alpha disaster, increased by £75 million to £140 million last month.

In the latest three months,

the volume of exports rose by 3 per cent, to a level 5.5 per cent up on the corresponding period a year ago, excluding oil and the erratic items of trade. Import volumes, despite last month's fall, rose by 9.5 per cent in volume in the latest three months, to 15 per cent up on a year ago.

Department of Trade and Industry officials said it seemed the July current account deficit was erratically high and the August figures were closer to the underlying trend deficit of about £1 billion a month.

The cumulative deficit for the first eight months of 1988 was £9.2 billion, pointing to a full-year deficit of between £13 billion and £15 billion.

Base rates have often fallen around the time of the Conservative Party conference and suggestions were being made in the money markets of a possible early cut in rates.

But Miss Joanne Curley, economist at Morgan Grenfell, gave warning against such a move. "It would be completely inappropriate and undermine sterling."

However, Mr Dick Howard, economist at Capel-Cure Myers, said interest rates had usually come down fairly quickly after the sort of sharp rise seen recently. He predicted 11 per cent base rates by the end of the year.

Lawson relief over figures

From Rodney Lord, West Berlin

The lower trade deficit for August was greeted with relief by British officials at the World Bank's annual meeting in West Berlin.

Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, said: "It is always wrong to place too much weight on a single month's figures. But the clear picture which emerges from the trade figures over the last few months is one where exports are continuing to perform well, but imports have risen

sharply as a result of the strength of domestic demand.

"We took the appropriate action in response to this during the summer by tightening monetary conditions. The effects of this will inevitably take some time to come through."

Mr Lawson is expected to make a further reference to the trade pattern during today's speech to the plenary session of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank annual

meetings. He does not, however, plan to make a new forecast until the Autumn Statement in November.

Senior officials said the figures confirmed that demand had continued to be too high during August but pointed out that interest rates were raised 1 per cent towards the end of the month. They said the figures offered no important new information about the underlying trend in the balance of payments.

Maxwell lifts bid to \$2.5bn

By Wolfgang Münchhausen

The battle for Macmillan, the US publishing house, entered another phase yesterday after Mr Robert Maxwell, the publisher, raised his bid from \$86.80 to \$89 a share, valuing the company at more than \$2.5 billion (£1.5 billion).

In a letter to Macmillan, Mr Maxwell said the offer was "a copy of the KKR merger agreement previously approved by the Macmillan board of directors, to which we have made changes as necessary."

However, Mr Maxwell said that unlike his previous offers the new bid was conditional on a formal merger agreement being reached.

The increased offer followed a deadline set by Macmillan for offers to be received by Monday. Speculation that Kohlberg Kravis Roberts, the US finance house behind the rival management buyout consortium, was on the verge of launching a \$90 a share knock-out bid, topping Mr Maxwell's previous \$86.80 offer, sent Macmillan shares soaring to \$87. Yesterday, they rose to \$89.

ConsGold inquiry in Johannesburg

By Colin Campbell

The Johannesburg Stock Exchange yesterday launched an official inquiry into price movements and trading activity in Consolidated Gold Fields shares and options and ordered local brokers to submit trading orders to its inspectorate for scrutiny.

The order followed yesterday's meeting of the full general committee of the JSE, which took note of advice given on Monday by its listing department that an inquiry would be appropriate.

South African brokers are required to submit returns of transactions in ConsGold shares and options executed by them between August 1 and September 20, inclusive.

The JSE inquiry follows a similar hunt for suspected insider trading ordered by the London Stock Exchange a week ago 15 minutes before the formal 8am announcement by the Minorco group of Luxembourg that it was launching a record £2.9 billion bid for ConsGold.

Exchange sources said that if required there would be co-

operation between Johannesburg and London in determining the results of their individual investigations.

ConsGold said yesterday it had received a formal reply from the Liechtenstein bank to which it wrote last week demanding to know, under section 212 of the Companies Act, for whom it was holding ConsGold shares and options.

The Verwiltungs- und Privat-Bank AG, of Vaduz, acknowledged ConsGold's request for information but added that it "needed a little more time" to reply in full.

ConsGold added that it is still waiting for a reply from the Department of Trade and Industry to investigate aspects of the Minorco bid.

A further twist to the Anglo American/De Beers connection in the Minorco bid for ConsGold was the sighting in London yesterday of Mr Harry Oppenheimer, the past chairman of the Anglo American group and of De Beers. A spokesman for De Beers said that Mr Oppenheimer was in London on a private visit.

Auction house a picture of health



State of the art: Lord Carrington and "Japanese Bridge" (Photograph: Stephen Markeson)

Christies sets £20m half-time record

Lord Carrington, former Foreign Secretary and head of Nato, and now chairman of Christies International, yesterday predicted "an excellent second half" for the art auction house, after record interim profits of £20.6 million (£18.3 million) in the six months to end-June.

Lord Carrington said the autumn season promises to be one of the most exciting in the company's history, with "exceptional" works of art being offered.

The group yesterday raised its interim dividend from 3p to 4p a share, on the back of net earnings up from 24.77p to 28.91p a share. On the stock market, Christies shares rose from 532p to 541p.

Items up for auction include Monet's "Japanese Bridge", expected to realize more than £3 million on November 28, one of the world's largest diamonds which goes under the hammer in New York next month, and what is likely to become the most expensive 20th century work of art - Picasso's "Acrobate et jeune Arlequin."

Group auction sales rose from £316 million to £347 million in the period, and turnover from £50.9 million to £55.9 million.

In line with group policy of acquiring properties from which it operates, Christies is paying £10 million to acquire from the Crown Estate a 125-year lease on the premises in King Street, London.

Lord Carrington, who took over on July 1 as chairman of Christies from Mr Jo Floyd, said the interim results were a fitting tribute to Mr Floyd, who remains a non-executive director of Christies.

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City airport loses Mowlem £3.7m

By Alexandra Jackson

John Mowlem, the construction group, increased its pre-tax profits from £15 million to £21 million in the six months to end June. Profits would have been 15 per cent higher but for losses of £3.7 million from operating the London City airport in Docklands.

The airport had not been expected to contribute to profits yet, but its costs were increased by the closure of the airport for a month in January. This accounted for a million of the loss with interest costs adding the same amount again.

In spite of this set back, Sir Philip Beck, chairman of Mowlem, said he remained optimistic about the prospects for the airport and stood by his forecast that the £34

million project would be in profit within three years.

Mowlem is applying for planning permission to land British Aerospace 146 jets at the airport. They are larger and more powerful than the existing aircraft, the de Havilland Dash 7. A MORI opinion poll to be published next month is understood to show local opinion is behind the new proposals.

Use of the 146 jet at the airport depends on the design of a proposed nearby bridge, the East London river crossing, being revised.

Mowlem's sales in the half year rose from £359 million to £451 million. An interim dividend of 5.25p was declared, up from 4.75p last time.

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Next cut to £30m by CES spending

By Our City Staff

A decision by Next, the retail group, to convert sites acquired with Combined English Stores has cost the company the chance of a substantial first-half profit increase.

From a 70 per cent rise in turnover in the six months to July, much due to the acquisition of CES, it produced a gain in operating profits of just 29 per cent to £42.3 million. At the pre-tax level, after making a £4.2 million provision for convertible loan stock interest, profits were £700,000 ahead at £30.9 million.

Analysts had been anticipating up to £42 million. Mr George Davies, the Next chairman, explains the decline in margins by the change in the shape of the group since

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the CES acquisition twelve months ago. The CES chain has been substantially reorganized and has brought in trading operations with a heavy Christmas bias.

He sees no need for despondency about the strength of high street retailing. "Current trading on the high street continues the favourable trend of spring and summer and sales have been in line with expectations," he says.

Profits were hit by a surge in interest costs in the period from £2.6 million to £7.2 million, but the rapid conversion of CES sites which led to the rise has brought the outlets into profit earlier.

The postal dispute cost about £20 million in turnover on the home shopping business, which includes Grattan and accounts for 48 per cent of retail operating profit.

Mr Davies says the autumn Directory started well, but the postal dispute has seriously affected receipt of orders and catalogue requests.

Despite the flat profits, Next is lifting the interim dividend 8 per cent to 2.7p a share, payable on January 3.

Chase credit card increase

Chase Manhattan, the US bank, has raised the interest it charges on its credit card from 16.9 to 19.9 per cent. It is also increasing the interest it pays on credit balances of more than £10 to 8 per cent and is offering a direct debit facility to regular customers.

The increase still leaves Chase as the issuer of one of the cheapest credit cards compared with Barclaycard and Midland's Access which charge 26.8 per cent.

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Five-year programme to help Third World borrowers

IMF moves to end debt stalemate

From Bailey Morris West Berlin

The International Monetary Fund has proposed a five-year programme aimed at ending the stalemate over Third World debt problems. M Michel Camdessus, the IMF managing director, called for a three-pronged effort which envisaged greater resources from the world's surplus nations and more substantive debt-reducing schemes from creditor banks.

The programme was additional to the West's case-by-case approach to struggling debtor nations, not a departure from it, he emphasized.



Mr Sumita's remarks preceded the address by Mr Nicholas Brady, the new US Treasury Secretary, who gave warning against proposals by

governments and institutions which appeared to conform to the basic principles of the debt strategy but which, in fact, amounted to new concessions.

Mr Brady said some of the proposed schemes would actually weaken international institutions and shift the burden to tax payers in creditor countries. "We must see proposals for what they are, not for what they purport to be," he said.

The emphasis on debt reduction by the IMF, commercial banks and governments was a recognition that something more must be done to restore growth in debtor nations to head off the growing support for broader debt forgiveness schemes. M Camdessus, in advancing a larger role for the IMF, said the world had reached a stage when it could not fail to recog-

Pamerson Hogs	205	Lynn Tech N/P	6-7
Restanmaster	81	Thompson Clive NP	126-2
Rockton	110-1	Ultramer N/P	397-5
Saunderson Elec (130p)	146 4		
Saville (125p)	118	(Issue price in brackets).	

H-Tech Systems	148	Bis & Eversand N/P	12-1
Jackson Group	110	First Tech N/P	20
Lincoln Group (115p)	165-2	Honorbilt N/P	51-1
Lowmides Queensway	781-3	Jermyn Int N/P	160
Nat Telecom	140	Kentyn N/P	26
Palmerston Higgs	205	Lyric Tech N/P	6-2
Pennamaster	61	Thomson Clive N/P	128-2
Rockford	110-1	Ultramar N/P	381-5
Saunderson Elec (130p)	146-1		
Saville (125p)	218		

(Issue price in brackets).

EEC wins legal power over non-Community producers

From Michael Dynes, Brussels

The European Court of Justice yesterday conferred on the European Commission the right to take legal action and impose fines on non-EEC companies that violated Community competition laws.

The decision is the first to grant the Community powers in the highly sensitive area of extra-territorial jurisdiction, and is regarded by legal experts as one of the most important rulings by the Luxembourg-based court — effectively giving the community global jurisdiction.

The ruling followed an appeal by a group of wood pulp producers from the US, Canada and Finland, against punitive price fixing fines levied on their exports of wood pulp products to Community manufacturers in 1984.

The producers, most of

whom are based outside the EEC, initiated legal proceedings against the Commission on the grounds that the Community had no authority to interfere in the activities of companies operating outside the EEC.

In a preliminary ruling earlier this year, Mr Marco Darmon, the Advocate General, said the Commission did have the power to take action against non-EEC companies engaged in price-fixing or market-sharing conspiracies if it believes "free competition within the Community would be affected."

The Advocate General based his opinion on the highly controversial US "effects doctrine," which grants the US authorities the power to regulate foreign companies whose activities outside the

US have a damaging impact on domestic companies.

But in what legal experts are interpreting as an attempt to avoid a potentially divisive issue of infringing the sovereignty of other nation states, yesterday's judgement made no reference to the so-called effects doctrine.

Instead, the court based its decision on the activities of foreign companies inside the Community. "The decisive factor is the place where the agreement is implemented. It is immaterial whether they had recourse to subsidiaries, agents, sub-agents or branches in the Community," the court said.

"Where wood pulp producers sell directly to the Community and engage in price competition in order to win orders from those customers,

that constitutes competition within the common market.

Observers acknowledged that the distinction between the effects of price fixing agreements and their place of implementation is little more than a legal fiction. "But it enabled the court to avoid grasping the effects doctrine nettle," one legal expert said.

The producers involved included Bowater Inc, Crown Zellerbach Corp, Federal Paper Board, Georgia-Pacific Corp, Mead Corp, Scott Paper Co and Weyerhaeuser Co, from the US, MacMillan Bloedel from Canada and Ahlstrom from Finland.

The implications are far-reaching, as the Commission can now exercise jurisdiction over the supply of all raw materials to the Community from anywhere in the world.

Jefferson Smurfit leaps 70%

Jefferson Smurfit Group, the Dublin paper packager, has announced a 70 per cent leap in pre-tax profits to IR£109 million (£64.3 million) for the six months ending July 31 1988.

Mr Michael Smurfit, the chairman, attributed the improvement to "good volume growth, better margins and a tighter control of costs in most sections of the company."

Earnings per share are up 53 per cent to 21.7p. Sales rose by 17 per cent to IR£654 million. The profits include IR£69.4 million from group companies. There is an interim dividend of 1.3p, an increase of 10 per cent over last year.

Director goes at Blue Arrow

Mr Mike Crosswell, a key director with Mr Tony Berry's Blue Arrow group, has resigned, and is expected to leave at the end of the week. He is leaving "to pursue other interests," although he is understood not to be taking up a new post. He is chief executive of the employment group.

Atlantic talks

Atlantic Computers, a subsidiary of British Commonwealth Holdings, is negotiating to sell Atlantic Network Systems, its data communications unit, to Tricom Communications for an undisclosed sum.

Package deal

Lawson Mardon's European flexible packaging division has bought the Waxed Cartons group of Dublin for an undisclosed sum. Among other items, Waxed Cartons makes ice-cream wrappers.

Wider vision

Pilkington is to buy exclusive worldwide rights to the contact lens machinery of British-based G Nissel in a bid to broaden Pilkington Visioncare's market position for contact lens processing. The machinery will be made and marketed by Visioncare's Coburn Optical of the US.

Needler rises

Needler Group, the Canadian building materials group that joined the USM this year, had pre-tax profits of £1.49 million (£1.26) for the first six months of 1988. There is a 3 cents a share interim dividend.

John Menzies

John Menzies bought 66 stores from the Martin chain of newspapers for £41 million, not the entire company as implied in the report of Menzies' results yesterday. Martin is now owned by Panfida group and Ormsby Investments.

COMMENT David Brewerton

Next's eroding margins leave credibility gap

Hold your horses, George Davies, you have a credibility gap. Interim figures from Next are disappointing and the balance sheet is showing signs of strain.

At first sight, Next appears to have a serious problem, and one which virtually all retailers face from time to time: eroding margins. Operating profit margins on sales are showing a steep decline. In the first half of the current year, the figure was 7.8 per cent against 10.25 per cent last time. Compared with the full year, when margins were pumped up to 11.6 per cent by a high level of Christmas trade, the decline appears alarming.

Margin erosion is, to some extent, a casualty of growth. For instance, Next has opened 46 jewellery shops, which drag down the margin all year until, a few weeks before Christmas, sales take off. Next has yet to go through a Christmas period in its jewellery shops, so it does not know quite what to expect. The children's wear operation similarly made a slow start, pulling back the group trading margin as sales failed to meet forecasts. They are now back on track, but whether the track has been recharted or the sales pattern really is picking up, is not quite clear.

But to a stock market which is only

interested in retail shares as takeover plays, the risk of diluting the winning Next women's and men's wear with ventures into children's clothing, which has beaten many a retailer before Mr Davies, and jewellery, where Gerald Ratner is king, does not seem worth taking.

In time, the market may accept that while Next was moving too fast this year and had put its balance sheet under strain — gearing is 120 per cent at the half year — by moving at a furious pace through the CES conversion plan it has laid the foundations for genuine organic growth.

The problem is, that earnings per share are set to fall in the present year, especially after providing for extra interest on the convertible, and the market is interested only in results, not promises.

That said, Next is not about to be added to the list of takeover targets and is still small enough to be a niche player in the high street. At some point it will be realized that Next is better managed than companies on higher ratings, and the shares will begin their struggle back to credibility. But first, Mr Davies has to demonstrate beyond doubt that he is as interested in his shareholders as he is in his place in the retailing hierarchy.

Lawson's task eases a little

Britain's balance of payments position has moved from disastrous to awful in the space of just a month. Soon, if the improvement continues, the trade figures may just be very bad. That at least was the frame of mind in which the markets approached yesterday's trade figures and the result, for the moment at least, is that the Chancellor appears to be on his way to rehabilitation.

Those dreadful July trade figures, although it may not have seemed so at the time, were a blessing in disguise. After the £2.15 billion current account deficit recorded then — now officially regarded as erratic — anything under £2 billion was acceptable for the August data.

According to Giles Keating of Credit Suisse First Boston, July imports may have been swelled by industry building its stocks with the August data reflecting a return to more normal import levels.

Even so, the August current account outturn, of £1.3 billion, would have been regarded as extremely bad news even two months ago. Yesterday, it produced conditions of near euphoria in the markets.

The August figures did two things. They showed that imports can go down as well as up, something which was beginning to look a little doubtful. And they showed that the current account deterioration does not follow a steady

path. The Chancellor's task is therefore easier, and the prospect of surviving future shocks from the statistics in the coming months much better.

That said, the markets have fallen neatly into the trap of reacting too much to one month's data. The current account deficit in the latest three months was £4.5 billion, nearly double that of the previous three months. And, while the official guidance is that the August figures were closer to the trend deficit than July, there is no reason why the average of July and August should not be a better guide to the current account in the second half of the year.

The effects of the tightening of monetary policy remain difficult to gauge. The Treasury is taking comfort from signs of a slackening of demand in the housing market but the official warning about the current account being slow to respond to higher interest rates should be taken seriously.

We are back into the area of the debate where people can once again ask: does a large current account deficit matter? And the answer is that in the short-term, it only matters if it inflicts damage on sterling. The pound's rise yesterday shows that the present trade-off between high interest rates and awful trade figures is accepted in the markets. But for this state of affairs to continue, the deficit needs to narrow much more before the end of the year.

AMP 'may put £100m into Life'

By Maria Scott

Australian Mutual Provident could inject up to £100 million of fresh capital into London Life over the next three years if their proposed merger goes ahead, Mr Ian Salmon, AMP's chief general manager, international, said yesterday.

AMP has already committed £15 million to London Life and if the merger is approved by policyholders this will be distributed in the form of a special bonus.

But Mr Salmon, who was outlining the background to AMP's desire for a marriage with London Life on the day merger documents were posted to London Life policyholders, said this was just a taste of the financial support AMP could provide.

The document also outlines plans for a management shake-up at London Life. A new board is to be set up and it will include only three of the 11 members of the board in place when the merger plan was announced in May.

Notably, it will not include the present London Life managing director, Dr John Evans, nor its appointed secretary, Mr Brendan McBride.

Opec talks on oil slide



Price action: Dr Subroto, Opec's secretary general, at the Madrid meeting yesterday

From Harry Debelius Madrid

The price committee of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries has called for an urgent joint meeting with its long-term strategy committee after two days of inconclusive sessions in Madrid. The joint meeting, expected next month, will decide

whether the slump in oil prices warrants an emergency session of the full Opec. At present, the next full meeting is scheduled for November 21 in Vienna.

Dr Subroto, Opec's Indonesian secretary general, said the purpose of such a meeting would be to work out how to stop the slide in prices.

The Madrid meeting meanwhile left traders doubtful of any short-term boost for oil prices as the world glut continues.

Prices fell yesterday by as much as 70 cents from Monday's highs, with North Sea Brent, the most widely traded crude, ending the day at about \$12.85 a barrel.

Accounts problems hit Casket forecast

By Our City Staff

S Casket (Holdings), the clothing wholesaler and importer, yesterday unveiled a 22 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £3.44 million for the year to June 30, on turnover up 2.2 per cent to £95.27 million.

The increase in profits came despite the discovery, announced yesterday, that accounting problems have arisen at Kingsley and Forester Group, a toy, hardware and textiles business, with which Casket merged this year. Kingsley and Forester originated as a street trader.

The company added: "It also became obvious that standards of management information and financial

management controls were unsatisfactory." The 1987 profits were accordingly restated.

As a consequence Panmure Gordon, Casket's broker, has downgraded its profit forecasts from £5.5 million to £5.1 million. The company said that it had undertaken immediate investigations and implemented proper controls. The top management of Kingsley and Forester left following the discovery.

Earnings per share during the period rose to 6.8p from a previous 5.1p.

The final dividend is 1.8p a share making 3p against last year's 2.6p.

Molins at £3m in difficult trading

By Wolfgang Münchau

Molins, the tobacco machinery manufacturer, yesterday unveiled a 6.5 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £3.3 million on turnover up 8.1 per cent to £54.5 million for the six months to June 30. Earnings per share after tax were 4.9p, against 5.2p. The interim dividend is 2.5p per share.

The company said that the tobacco business, where trading profits rose from £900,000 to £2.1 million, was nevertheless disappointing and below budget due to delayed customer decisions on new orders and a generally sluggish market for new machinery.

It is estimated that Saunderton, the company's tobacco

manufacturing plant, will not recover the shortfall in its budgeted sales this year, but the company said that prospects for 1989 and beyond are much better.

This is partly due to an increase in machinery orders from China since June. According to a recently-completed technology transfer agreement the Chinese have agreed to buy a large volume of machinery over the next 15 months.

Profits at the packaging and security printing machinery division have risen to £1.7 million from £1 million, but the company said that margins remained tight, although volumes are rising.

Fair game for shoot party

Speculation is rife among the huntin', shootin' and fishin' set that Australian entrepreneur Alan Bond has indeed topped up his 7 per cent holding in Allied-Lyons, the brewing and food group, to almost 9 per cent. As Allied's shares jumped 56p to a peak of 456p on Friday — and two lines, in particular, of 12.2 million shares (1.7 per cent of the company) went through the market — the company denied stock market talk that Bond had been buying more.

"If he has, we're not aware of it," a spokesman said. But, it looks as if the company may have finally become aware of "it" the next day. At a shoot in Yorkshire on Saturday — to which a number of top British industrialists had been invited — Sir Alex Alexander, deputy chairman of the said company and head of its food division, had his lunch break abruptly interrupted by his chauffeur, summoning him to an urgent call on his car telephone. Alexander took the call and then, I am reliably told, made a hurried excuse and left.

Coining it

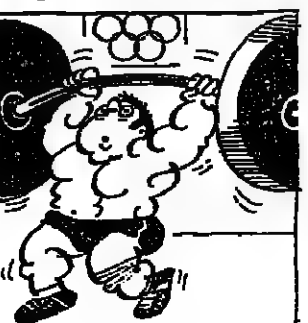
Forget diamonds — rare coins are an investor's best friend. They have won the top rating — beating mutual funds, gold bullion, diamonds and tax-exempt bonds — according to Schabacker's *Investment ScoreCard*, a \$15 a month advisory publication in America. Rare coins have gained 39.1 per cent in the past three

THE TIMES CITY DIARY Burns' day at Abaco

Abaco Investments, one of the jewels in British & Commonwealth's crown, has lost one of its leading lights. Cameron Brown, who helped Peter Goldie nurture Abaco to its present position, is resigning from his job as chief executive to "pursue his private interests." After five years of hard slog he feels it is time for

a change. "We've bought 40 or 50 companies in the last few years. Now it is time to consolidate, so it seems like a good time to hand over to new management," Brown tells me. "I don't think I'll be coming back into the City." His place is being taken by Ian Burns, hitherto managing director of Abaco.

months. During the past five years they have increased in value by 27 per cent a year — making them the number two investment during that period, behind Japanese stocks. ScoreCard predicts that rare coins will continue to prosper, with those dated before 1933 being the ones to save.



"... Trained as a Sunday newspaper delivery boy."

Victory slick

Shrewd stock market investors have reaped rich profits from playing past presidential elections in the United States. This time, however, Wall Street analysts say it is not going to be so easy. No matter who wins, nothing much is expected to happen straight away. Steven Einhorn, investment manager at Goldman Sachs, says: "Bush and Dukakis are technocrats. They will both enter office cautiously and do very little fiscally in their first year." While victory for George Bush is expected to be good news for Wall Street, the one industry likely to benefit more than most from his Administration is oil. That is because Bush is a former oil man and will, it is presumed, be sympathetic to its needs. But almost every analyst in the US picks one sector to avoid even if Bush does win: defence contractors.

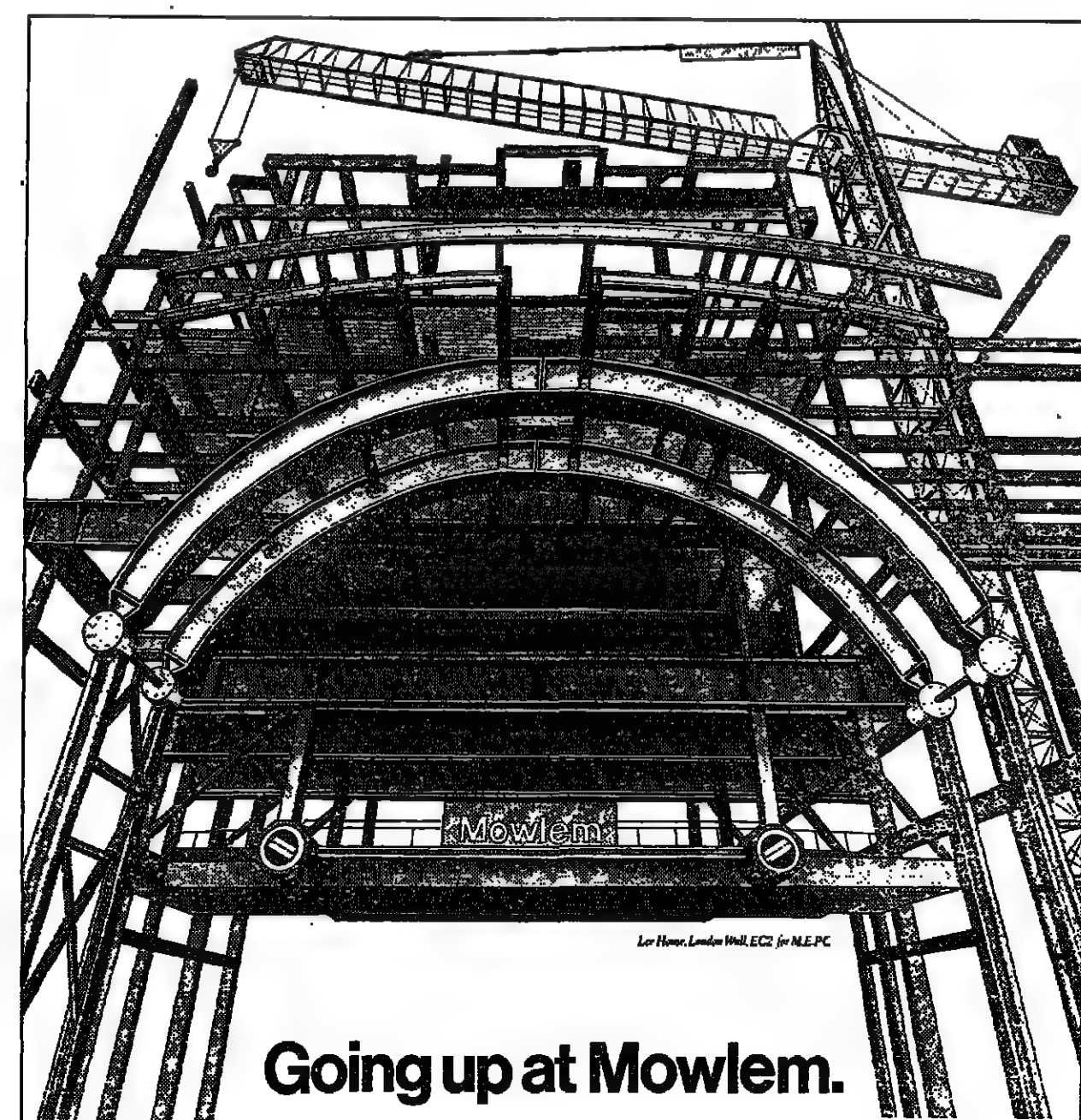
Admirable employer

The latest craze among the status-conscious Wall Street set — to employ an English butler — seems to be spreading to the East. Ivor Spencer, who runs the Ivor Spencer International School for Butlers, in London, is at the Mandarin Hotel, in Hong Kong, as the toastmaster for the hotel's 25th anniversary party. He has been beset with requests from Australian and Hong Kong businessmen to supply them with butlers. Describing these potential employers, however, as "new money," he has, in his spare time, been teaching them exactly how to use such an employee. "Couples who want to employ one of my butlers take a suite here for one long day, from 7am till 11pm, and the butler and I show them exactly what his duties are," says Ivor. With most of his butlers going to the US, this Far Eastern interest is something new. "Australia and Hong Kong seem to be opening up."

A likely line

More translations of the pet sayings of equity salesmen: "We've just seen the company," means: "I met a non-executive director at a party last night." If a fund manager says: "I'll give you the booking later," what he is really thinking is: "If they go up during the day I'm having 10,000 for myself." And "I can offer you the last 50,000 of a line of 1 million," only works when 19 of his colleagues are saying it at the same time...

Carol Leonard



See How, London Wall, EC2 for M.E.P.C.

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Turnover	£451.0m	£359.0m	+26%
Profit before tax	£21.0m	£15.0m	+40%
Earnings per share	15.7p	11.1p	+41%
Dividend	5.25p	4.75p	+10%

For a copy of our interim statement write to James Ward, Company Secretary, John Mowlem & Company PLC, Westgate House, Ealing Road, Brentford, Middlesex.

Mowlem

The contents of this statement have been approved for the purposes of Section 27 of the Financial Services Act by Paul Marwick McLennan, who is authorised to carry on investment business by the ICAEW. Past performance is not necessarily an indication of future performance.

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LA CREME ALSO
APPEARS ON PAGE 21.

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Cameron, Choat & Partners

Public Relations and Marketing Consultants

PR SECRETARIES

We are a young fast growing PR company currently looking for two lively Secretaries to work for our Managing Director and Account Director. You must have fast, accurate typing and good organisational skills, a pleasant telephone manner and the confidence to deal with client, press, radio and TV queries. Both positions offer responsibility, variety and a happy but hectic working environment. Salaries: £10,750 and £10,000 p.a. + 2 bonuses + BUPA.

Apply in writing with CV or telephone:

Ms Giselle Carstairs

House Manager

Cameron, Choat & Partners

Bury House, 126-128 Cromwell Road

London SW7 4ET

01-373 4537

NO AGENCIES

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45 Minutes with

DRAKE PERSONNEL

PROMOTE YOURSELF

£11,000

As PA to the Sales & Marketing Director of this well known company you'll find yourself surrounded by successful sales people who will rely on your excellent organisational ability to keep them on the move. Your excellent WP skills will ensure you handle the correspondence and reports with ease, whilst leaving you plenty of time to enjoy the more sociable aspects of your role. The benefits offered by this company are many and well worth having. So if you would like to hear more

Call Alison Kerry on 01-834 0388.

HIGH SOCIETY

£15,000

Your style and poise will grace these exquisite offices, housing superb restaurant, social, shopping and sports facilities. As PA to the Chairman of this magnificent Blue Chip company, charm, visiting VIP's, organise executive meetings, arrange entertainment, liaise with top Directors, handle delegated administration and provide a comprehensive service. A sense of humour and social awareness are crucial ingredients for your success.

Call Nicola Grant on 01-623 1226.

PROMOTION GUARANTEED

£15,000

A truly fabulous PA position awaits your extrovert, fast thinking personality! Assisting the Managing Director, you will utilise your knowledge of export or trading environments whilst training to eventually move away from the short hand secretarial role. Your communication skills coupled with an "ambitious streak" will ensure success.

Call Michelle Green on 01-623 1226.

PLENTY OF INITIATIVE

£12,000

The opportunity to take the initiative in all you do, whilst becoming totally involved with your role as PA to the Chairman will mean a real challenge. This Publishing company operates from very relaxed premises where everyone is very friendly, and very committed. Your good audio typing and rusty shorthand will ensure you handle the correspondence and reports with ease - leaving plenty of time to handle the other aspects of your day.

Call Jane Macdonald on 01-734 0911.

PA TO MD

£12,000

Do you enjoy lots of client liaison? Do you thrive on organising client events? The MD of this international company needs a PA with charm and confidence to entrust with his most important clients as well as handling all his travel arrangements and correspondence. This is a super role where your sense of humour will win you as many accolades as your excellent audio/WP skills. The company offer a generous benefits package which includes an annual weekend trip overseas. If you would like to discuss this opportunity further

Call Sue Carter on 01-531 0666.

Change your life today!

P.A./SECRETARY INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION TO £14,000 p.a. + BENEFITS WEST LONDON

Our client, an International Trade Association based at a pleasant riverside location in West London, is seeking an experienced multilingual P.A./Secretary to work with the senior executive team.

You will be dealing with top managers from some of the world's largest companies, assisting with meetings and conferences in the U.K. and abroad and providing first-class secretarial and administrative support.

Bright, enthusiastic and confident, you should have excellent communication skills, at least one European language in addition to English (ideally Italian but French or Portuguese also acceptable) and extensive secretarial experience.

If you consider you have the necessary qualities and background for this exciting opportunity, and would enjoy the challenge of working in a small, friendly and professional team, please write or telephone for further details and an application form to:

GAME, CARPENTER AND ASSOCIATES,
HUMAN RESOURCE CONSULTANTS,
Saville Court, 11 Saville Place, Clifton, Bristol BS8 4EJ.
Tel: (0272) 237594

Executive Secretary to the Managing Director

The Executive Secretary is vital to the effective support of management. Using the same sophisticated technology that is used to recruit senior managers, Distaff has identified characteristics which qualify candidates for this significant role.

Distaff only recruit at senior secretarial level for clients for whom the match of secretary to client is vital.

We have been asked by the Managing Director of a high-growth company within a large established group to recruit an experienced P.A.

If you feel you have these skills and qualities, please apply for a career review form. If this location is not convenient, we may have other opportunities which would suit you.

Julian Tennant,
Distaff,
12 Horwode Court,
The Broadway,
Old Amersham, Bucks HP8 0HW
(0494 724040 (Ext. 200))

They offer you

Earnings circa £14,000.

Modern offices in a pleasant Hampshire location. The scope to make the job big enough to reflect your strengths, skills and aspirations.

You should offer

Outstanding professional and interpersonal skills.

Confidence that you can make a contribution to the success of the management team.

The presence, personality and diplomacy to act as ambassador for the company.

Excellent administrative and secretarial skills.

SENIOR PA/ SECRETARY

£15,000

We are seeking an excellent PA/Secretary with charm and professionalism for this challenging 50/50 role. Working for the young Chairman of a small Investment Company based in the City, you will be expected to use your initiative and become fully involved in all aspects of a diversified business. Rapid expansion is underway and a flexible personality is essential. Your contribution and commitment to the success of the company will be both recognised and fully rewarded. Skills 50/50. Age 23-35.

RECEPTION

The company mentioned above also require a calm, collected individual to operate their switchboard and help with a little typing and general admin. The ability to decipher unusual names is vital as you will be receiving a lot of overseas calls. Good salary and promotion prospects for the right person.

RING 580 4766

Recruitment Consultants

CROSS SELECTION

Publishing PA To £15,000

Brilliant opportunity to run the show as PA to the MD and Editorial Director of fast-moving publishing house. Using your sense of style and organisation you will arrange events and deal with celebrities. On a day-to-day basis, act as a positive filter between them, the clients and the rest of the company. Stunning offices and young, professional yet informal atmosphere. Skills: typing and rusty shorthand. Call 01-409 1232 for further information.

Recruitment Consultants
to the Communications Industry

THE WORK SHOP

PA/SECRETARY

FINANCIAL/ADMINISTRATION DIRECTOR

25-40 yrs £14,000

Join a successful and expanding Consultancy, specialising in International Executive Search in luxurious W1 offices.

A varied dual role:
It combines a busy PA/Secretarial job with the additional responsibility for the smooth day to day management of a dynamic company, with 20 staff:

- Office management and administration
- Personnel responsibilities
- PA/Secretarial work for the Director
- Co-ordinating monthly accounts and analyses

Your skills:
• Intelligence • real organising ability • calm, unfappable personality • secretarial training • strong numerical capability • good, relevant experience

• seeking a busy, challenging and responsible job
To learn more please: Ruth Shelley (Director) 388 2851.

Banking with French

£13,000 + Mort + Benefits

This successful, high profile company requires a secretary with good conversational French to join its small friendly team based near Liverpool Street. You will become involved in the exciting world of mergers and acquisitions and must be able to work under pressure and have a flexible and enthusiastic outlook. If you enjoy using your keyboard skills (80/50+) and would like to take advantage of great City benefits please call us.

Age to 35.
THE BOARDROOM
Recruitment Consultants
629-5466

BRITAIN'S LEADING BUSINESS CENTRE

Requires an ambitious secretary (22-28 maximum) with excellent skills (WP Wordstar, shorthand, etc) to join their existing team of secretaries. Applicants must be well spoken, well groomed and cheerful. Salary £11,000-£12,000 and personal car + PP and clothes allowance.

RING : 629 6116 Ref LGW/MG

SECRETARIES Westminster

Municipal Mutual Insurance have vacancies for experienced, bright and enthusiastic secretaries with sound secretarial skills as follows:-

1. Secretary to the Investment Manager - an interesting position for someone with good audio/copy typing skills who enjoys organising.
2. Secretary to the Managers of our Business Development and Marketing departments. This position is varied and interesting, requiring good audio typing skills and experience of word processing.

We offer an excellent salary and benefits package, including Season Ticket Loan, flextime and private medical insurance. If you would like to be considered for either of the above posts and are aged 22+, please write giving full career details, including current salary to:-

Miss Kathy Sambrook
Personnel Officer
Municipal Mutual Insurance Ltd
25/27 Old Queen Street, Westminster SW1H 9HN

We are an equal opportunity employer.

CENTRES OF POWER

Take your pick at c.£14,000 p.a.

SW1 High into H's of P
Small MD of major industrial group - defence and aircraft systems - in prestigious offices. MD of car - needs career-minded Sec PA 35+, with excellent job record. She is 30% typing only. No need necessary. PA coping with anything going - organisation, repair, maintenance, industry links. For lively, flexible, self-motivated, career oriented only.

Or either to you ring now.

MARY WERTON
RECRUITMENT

35 PICCADILLY, LONDON W1V 9PB TELEPHONE 01-734 7282

A True PA? ...

£12,500+

Our client, a young and enterprising PR firm, are seeking an exceptional PA with a mature and conscientious outlook to organise an account's team. Working from a delightful new house in Holland Park they specialise in consumer PR with an emphasis on health and beauty products. A close-knit but relaxed atmosphere provides the background for your role within the company, looking after a team of 3 and utilising competent secretarial skills, you will work on your own initiative and have plenty of client contact. Mail merge experience useful as is some knowledge of PR. Age 27+. Accurate typing, WP skills. Call 01-493 0713.

MERRYWEATHER ADVERTISING & SELECTION

MERRYWEATHER

PARIS SECRETARY P.A. TO MANAGING DIRECTOR

If you are a great organiser, self-motivated, with excellent secretarial skills, and if your French is almost as good as your English, here is an opportunity to live and work in Paris.

We are an international real estate firm and our English Managing Director needs you. Prior to interview in London please mail complete C.V. to:

G.C.I.
Générale Continentale Investissements
43, av. de Friedland 75008 Paris, France.

POLITICAL CONSULTANCY

Well-presented and intelligent secretary required for Westminster-based political consultants and analysts. WordStar Professional and s/n (50/100).

Common sense, accuracy and good background are the main criteria. Interest in politics desirable but not essential. Suit legal secretary. Dress allowance, free meals, pension scheme, profit share. £13,000.

Contact Joanna Morgan-Groves on 01-828 6088.

BRISTOL
22 Baldwin Street
Bristol BS1 1SE
0272-299998

EDINBURGH
29 Frederick Street
Edinburgh EH2 2ND
031-226 5951

GLASGOW
21 West Nile Street
Glasgow G1 2PS
041-226 5888

CRAWLEY
40 The Boulevard
Crawley RH10 1XP
0293-540521

STRATFORD
72 The Broadway
Stratford E15
01-519 6343

HOLBORN
96 High Holborn
London WC1
01-831 0666

WEMBLEY
11 Park Lane
Wembley
01-903 4901

VICTORIA
150 Victoria Street
London SW1
01-834 0388

WEST END
225 Regent Street
London W1
01-734 0911

KENSINGTON
10 Pembroke Road
London W11
01-221 5072

BOND STREET
72 New Bond Street
London W1
01-355 4878

CROYDON
6 Suffolk House
George Street
Croydon, Surrey
01-688 5698

CITY
Plantation House
31-35 Fenchurch St.
London EC3
01-623 1226

HAMMERSMITH
14 The Broadway
Hammersmith W6
01-846 9787

GENEVA
2 Rue Verdaine
Case Postale 604
1211 Geneva 3-Rive

ZURICH
Kasernenstrasse 11
Postfach
8021 Zurich

DRAKE DRAKE DRAKE

EXPRESS INTO EUROPE

£11,500

Re-joining the luxury days of Europe and style, this is a rare opportunity to work for one of the most prestigious firms in Europe. Working for two highly successful, senior executives, you will be involved in everything from promotional and publicity planning to occasional check-in duties. There will also be some travel in Europe to a knowledge of French or German would be helpful. You will probably be a versatile and conscientious 2nd/3rd party, looking to develop your career, this could be the opening you need.

100/80

Piccadilly
Office
629 9686

ANGELA MORTIMER

KENSINGTON ADMIN WITH A DIFFERENCE

Canning runs communication and English language seminars for international business and professional people in London, Bath, Milan and Tokyo.

In the Tailored course department our trainers travel all over Europe to run short courses. We are looking for someone to conduct telephone interviews with course candidates, talk to clients and trainers about the content, practical organisation and travel arrangements, and type up course reports.

This is an unusual and challenging job which calls for commitment and responsibility. Our administrator needs to be well organised, to put clients at their ease on the phone, and to take a genuine interest in their business activities.

Some language skills, practical admin experience and good typing speeds are needed.

Salary: £12,600 p.a. rising on confirmation. Age range 25 to 45. We offer 7 weeks holiday, pension and profit sharing scheme.

Ring Anita between 2 and 4 pm
any afternoon on 01 937 9044.

SECRETARY

£9,500

£9,500. W1 Excellent post for 2nd jobber with accounts and fast typing. If you have a flair for organising call now for immediate interview.

SHORTHAND SECRETARY

£12,000

Interesting and varied position with architectural and design. Super offices and perks. W1.

AUDIO SECRETARY

£11,500

Assistant partners of established C/WA with very busy day. Plush offices. W1.

01 434 9343

CLAYMAN

8-19 OXFORD STREET W1

HOTEL SALES OFFICE

Hotel sales office secretary/ receptionist/ administrator. Small prestigious Hotel Company Headquarters in South Bank, close to Waterloo and St Paul's. Must be able to converse with excellent secretarial skills. WP and audio. Salary to £10,000. Please send C.V. to:

C. Wynn,
Ade Sales and
Marketing,
3 Grosvenor Gardens,
London, SW1W 0BD.

MARKETING ASSISTANT

Knightsbridge based tour operator. Superb travel and holiday. Looking for a bright, lively assistant with WP skills to work on their 5th & 6th Summer programmes. Some marketing experience an advantage. Love of sipping and a sense of humour essential. Age 21+.

Call Lizette Norton on
01-589 5161.

BUSY WEST END ESTATE AGENTS

Require shorthand Secretary. Must have good telephone manner and accurate typing. Age c23. Salary c£14,000. Call 01-723 7696.

£13,000 to £15,000 + BENEFITS

International Bank is looking for senior secretary to work for head of Capital Markets and his team. Challenging position. Good shorthand/ audio/ WP. A level education, aged 25 to 40. Interested call

Monique at
Select Secretarial
Recruitment on
628 4200.

PA/OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

to £13,000 + benefits

Opportunity for good organiser with proven administration and secretarial skills for varied role in small but expanding team of Management Consultants. Some computer experience and an accounts background helpful. Must be smart, flexible, possess common sense and initiative. Aged 24 to 30.

Call Lizette Norton on
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01-589 5161.

01-481 4481

LA CRÈME DE LA CRÈME

01-481 4481

GENEROUS PROFIT SHARES.

£14,000 neg

This Executive PA position offers you the opportunity to become involved with important decisions about running the company, personnel administration, board responsibility and you will lead a busy team. Top position, plush offices, social atmosphere and generous profit sharing.

Interested Call 434 0030.

HODGE
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS
01-629 8863

FASHION DESIGNER'S PA

£14,000

How would you like to run the office of a group of Britain's top designers, putting on shows and exhibitions? This is a job for a person with a good office background and an interest in clothes. Lots of visits and BIG DISCOUNTS. Great eg?

Phone 434 0030.

HODGE
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS
01-629 8863

SENIOR SEC

£13,500 + Bonus

Our client, a leading Design Consultancy, has several vacancies for top notch Secretaries. The ideal candidates will have good interpersonal skills and the ability to work in a fast paced office.

CITY: 01 481 2345

WEST END: 01 481 2264

VICTORIA: 01 834 7707

CAREER MOVE

£13,000

A challenging and highly responsible position for a well qualified Secretary to join the successful Executive Search Co and manage the office. A confident approach and a professional manner is needed to deal with a wide range of duties. Excellent terms.

CITY: 01 481 2345

WEST END: 01 481 2264

VICTORIA: 01 834 7707

DESIGN

£12,000

An outstanding opportunity with very broad scope exists in this young and growing Design Co. This lively Director is seeking a personable Sec who is able to deal with clients & visitors and ensure the office is run smoothly. A full and varied role with prospects for advancement.

CITY: 01 481 2345

WEST END: 01 481 2264

VICTORIA: 01 834 7707

VARIETY PLUS

£12,500

A chance to broaden your experience and utilise your communication skills to the full in this world renowned Co. This is a newly created position which will develop into a Sec PA role. Excellent opportunity with unlimited career prospects.

CITY: 01 481 2345

WEST END: 01 481 2264

VICTORIA: 01 834 7707

SHIPPING

£12,500

If you are seeking involvement, job satisfaction and the chance to go on the go then our client is looking for you. He needs a PA to liaise with various clients in the shipping and control of the office. Plenty of responsibility - Not a 9 to 5 position.

CITY: 01 481 2345

WEST END: 01 481 2264

VICTORIA: 01 834 7707

ADMINISTRATOR

£11,000

A pure administrative role in a fast moving and rapidly expanding Co. for an energetic person with sound administrative & communication skills. The duties are diverse dealing with advertising, personnel & ad hoc projects. Excellent career potential. The Salary on 01-481-2264

CITY: 01 481 2345

WEST END: 01 481 2264

VICTORIA: 01 834 7707

abbatt abbatt abbatt abbatt abbatt abbatt

COLLEGE LEAVERS

Property W1 - £9,000

Small friendly firm of surveyors needs a secretary/receptionist with a ready smile to greet visitors, answer the telephone and help out in their busy estate agency department. Your days will be very varied helping to prepare homes and offices for sale or rental, arranging appointments and keeping your busy young boss under control! If you have lots of initiative and accurate typing you will enjoy this lively introduction to the working world. Please call Jacky now on 434 4512.

Kings Road - £10,000

Indulge your interest in food by joining this publishing company which researches, collates and publishes food guides. As part of a small team, you will help in all aspects of the working day, liaising with restaurants, arranging meetings, looking after diaries and typing reviews. If you are well organised, enthusiastic and have skills of 80/50/WP - please call Virginia now on 434 4512.

Crone Corkill
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

PA: Public Affairs to £15,000

This is a high profile position working for the Head of Public Affairs of a major public company. Very varied admin/organisational responsibilities in addition to providing secretarial support. Previous PR/advertising experience essential together with good shorthand/wp skills.

PA: City to £15,000

Senior Partner of a major international property firm needs a high calibre PA/senior secretary with excellent shorthand and wp skills. He sees the role growing into 70% admin/50% secretarial. Ideal age profile: 25-38. The company is based close to St Pauls and Cannon Street and offers a range of employee benefits.

Secretarial/Research Asst. c. £12,000

Graduate (preferably) with aptitude for computers and fast typing skills is needed to join vibrant young management consultancy. You will definitely need to thrive on hard work and pressure but at the same time you'll be gaining invaluable insight into business.

GRADUATE APPOINTMENTS
7 HUNTER STREET, W.1. 01-629 7262

ADVERTISING CHALLENGING OPPORTUNITIES to £11K

We are a leading international Advertising Agency in Mornington Crescent seeking secretaries for our Client Service Department. This Department is the contact point between ourselves and the many famous-name Clients for whom we produce advertising campaigns. It's fast-moving, exciting, challenging.

If you are a well-educated secretary with excellent skills and at least three years working experience and feel you would enjoy being a part of this dynamic department, we'd like to hear from you.

We are acknowledged as a caring and generous employer and offer 4 weeks holiday, STL and a superb new gymnasium and in-house restaurant/bar.

For further details please call me or pop your CV in the post today.

YER

Jacide Granville-Abbott. Tel: 01-387 8366
Young & Rubicam, Greater London House,
Hamstead Road, London NW1 7QP

From £14,000

Top Director, Int Marketing Co distributing tapes & videos looks for a highly organised person 20y - 30y with business acumen capable of keeping pace with him and producing good shorthand typing as required. W4. Staff perks.

£14,000

Mayfair Property Co seeks an exceptional person. Workstar experienced, who will join small supportive team in overall activities and to handle all necessary typing as it arises. Free lunch & super perks.

£14,000

South Ken Sec School invites an experienced PA to join their Chairman. Well educated, able to provide secretarial backup, handle admin and deal sympathetically with parents, students and lecturers.

£9,500

Knightbridge Press Office needs a well turned out attractive personality with min 1 year exp to handle telephone enquiries and keep an eye on press, magazines and reference library. Good typing and kn WP. Free lunch & super perks.

01-589 8807

JOYCE GUINNESS
31 BROMPTON ARCADE, LONDON SW7 2BS
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

PERSONNEL ASSISTANT *S/H* ADVERTISING CO* £15,000*

Well known advertising agency requires a top PA to work for two senior Directors. A high degree of organizational ability is needed for this varied and involved position. Along with normal secretarial and administrative duties you will be assisting the Planning Director with marketing and research. There will be extensive client liaison so excellent presentation and communication skills are vital. Must have a sense of humour and an outgoing personality as well as a good educational background. This position requires a dedicated person who wishes to grow with the agency. First class s/h and w/p skills are essential, will cross train on ad. Must have previous advertising experience. Excellent benefits.

For further information call Elaine on 636 1493, Beavers Ltd (Rec Cons).

Get Into Television! £9,000-£12,000

A one-off opportunity has arisen for a Personnel/Administrative Assistant with this large independent television company. This is a newly-created position; ideal for someone with organisational ability and mature outlook, an initiative worker who has sharp administrative skills. Reporting to the Personnel Manager, your duties will involve: personnel admin, co-ordination of temporary staff and recruitment procedures as well as overall secretarial duties. Good at prioritising? Self-motivated and a high achiever pre-requisite. Age 22+. If you have a practical manner, sound skills (90/50) and WP knowledge then call 01-493 0713.

MERRYWEATHER ADVERTISING & SELECTION

MERRYWEATHER

CHARITY c.£12,000

A well established family charitable trust who contribute to a wide range of worthy causes need a capable person interested in becoming involved in their work, whilst giving secretarial and administrative support to the Director.

You will need to fit in well with a small, busy and friendly team and have the flexibility to respond to a varied working day often on own initiative. Reasonable shorthand, good typing (W/P experience required) and excellent communication skills. Age 25-35.

Please telephone us to discuss this interesting opportunity in more detail.

01 499 6566

The GROSVENOR
Bureau

SECRETARIAL ASSISTANT TO MANAGING DIRECTOR INTERNATIONAL MARKET RESEARCH

Join a small committed team of pharmaceutical market researchers, mostly in their 30s. Your interest and job satisfaction will derive from deep involvement in project organisation and working closely with the executives. WP experience essential. Opportunities for advancement. South Kensington offices.

Salary c. £11,000 + generous bonus scheme.

Please send CV in Helen Burdell, French Research Limited 4 Cromwell Place, London SW7 2J

SUPER SECRETARY SALARY £13,000 neg

Rapidly expanding company in Fulham require all round secretary. Age 25+. Excellent position for person wanting to take part in setting up of office. Will be responsible for all office admin. Knowledge of Word 4 and Lotus 123 would be helpful.

PLEASE RING SASHA ON 01 384 1388

It's Capital! £13,000 - £15,000 +

You are a super sec - assisting the Head of Capital Markets & his graduates. This international bank in EC2 offer a great benefits package including mortgage and need shorthand, age 25-40 and 'A' levels.

Call 377-8600

SECRETARIES PLUS

Tel: 01-481-2264

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

The Financial Director of this very prestigious Co. requires a high calibre secretary/P.A. Ideally you will have worked within a financial environment, are capable of working on own initiative and not afraid of a challenge. You will need to be calm and flexible and prepared to take an active role in the smooth running of his office. If you are 25+, are well presented and possess good skills in W/P (with cross-train) audio and S.H. then apply today as this sort of position doesn't occur every day. The rewards are extremely good for the right person. Neg. to £17,000.

Crystalline Recruitment Consultants

Jade House, 3 Park Street, London EC1 9AA

01 - 357 6601

Asprey

Require a person with good copy typing, WP and general office skills to work in our company's administration structure. Attractive package including sub camera, STL and shopping discount.

Telephone for details to Elizabeth Page 01 493 6767.

MEDIA - FINANCE - ADVERTISING - SALES - PERSONNEL - MEDIA

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SECRETARIES

UP TO £14,000 PLUS BENEFITS

Henderson is an independent investment house, and an established name in the City.

Three opportunities now exist in several departments for experienced Secretary/PAs looking to use their skills in varied, demanding roles.

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Providing full secretarial support for the Director of Finance and Administration, you must be able to confidently liaise with people of all levels and prioritise an often heavy workload. The position requires excellent shorthand and typing and at least 2 years experience at a similar level.

SECRETARY/PA - MARKETING

Working for a Marketing Director, this role involves, in addition to excellent organisational skills, client liaison and organising and attending conferences. You must have good audio and typing skills.

SECRETARY/PA - LEGAL SERVICES

Reporting to the Director of this department, you will be responsible for a department of six, with the assistance of another secretary. Familiarity with compliance, and previous legal secretarial experience would be a distinct advantage. Excellent shorthand/typing skills and the ability to use WordPerfect software and AST286 hardware is an important requirement.

All positions require a good standard of education to 'A' level or higher, excellent presentation and considerable organisational and communication skills. We offer salaries up to £14,000 and an excellent benefits package.

Please write enclosing c.v. to Anne Day, Personnel Department, Henderson Administration Limited, 3 Finbury Avenue, London, EC2M 2FA

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HENDERSON
ADMINISTRATION GROUP PLC

PA TO MANAGING DIRECTOR (Insurance Group)

Leslie & Godwin Ltd, a leading firm of Lloyd's Insurance Brokers, are looking for an experienced and accomplished PA for a demanding and challenging position. Responsibilities include the provision of a high level and confidential secretarial/administrative service; dealing with anything from routine enquiries to major crises in the same calm and diplomatic manner, particularly with senior management and overseas clients.

Aged 26 plus, with a good educational background, of smart appearance and with excellent secretarial skills, you should be able to work on your own initiative under pressure. Previous experience at Board level is essential.

We are offering an excellent salary and benefits package which fully reflects the importance of this appointment.

Please write enclosing curriculum vitae to Hana Smouha, Assistant Director, Personnel, PO Box 219, 6 Braham Street, London E1 8ED.

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PERSONAL SECRETARY TO CHAIRMAN

Piccadilly, Burlington Arcade to £14,000 + Bonus

A well-organised professionally-qualified businesswoman who is Chairman or a Director of a number of companies, carries out a variety of assignments, and is involved with the Arts and charities, needs an efficient, mature, non-smoking PA/Secretary to help him in his work. Impeccable secretarial skills are a *sine qua non* with top speeds essential. Book-keeping experience helpful. Graduate would be ideal.

You will have your own office in very pleasant surroundings and be dealing with influential people in a variety of interesting work. Applicants must live within the London postal area and be used to working on their own initiative in a small office.

Applications in writing to J.M.L. Stone & Co. Limited, 71 Burlington Arcade, Piccadilly, London W1V 9AF.

Personable PA

£15,000+ generous reviews

An innovative force in corporate identity is how we describe our client, an exclusive Marketing/PR consultancy. They require a well-organised and flexible PA to work alongside their young creative Managing Director. They specialise in introducing new products onto the market from their initial concept stage right through to the eventual PR and advertising launch. Very much a front-line role providing full PA support as well as co-ordinating all secretarial recruitment. A rewarding position with plenty of involvement and responsibility for the right person. Confident with skills of 100/60. Age 24+. Call 01-493 5787.

FREEDOM

Overseas

EC1

£14,000 + overtime

Ship brokers/owners Executive requires a Senior Shortband Secretary (French-speaking is an asset) to organise overseas trips and deal with the office while he's away. Lots of overtime and good benefits. Ref: S146.

47 Liverpool Street, EC2
01-621 0155

For details of the branch nearest to you call the Freedom Hotline on 01-390 6822

Secretary/Receptionist

EC3

to £13,000

You will have a free hand at this bank with all the secretarial duties which include copy and audio on an Olivetti WP. Good benefits and mortgage subsidy after 6 months. Ref: AC120.

192 Bishopsgate, EC2
01-283 0066

Sporty and Social?

EC3

to £12,000 AAE

This insurance brokers would like a Secretary with good communication skills. You'll be working for the Executive Director so a high percentage of audio typing will be required. Benefits plus sports and social club. Ref: W1R3.

65 Fenchurch Street, EC3
01-481 2661

Hot Property

W1

to £12,000

Your legal experience will come in use at this hotel and property investment company. They seek a Secretary with audio and WP skills to work in their team. Free lunch and pension scheme. Ref: 215.

181 Victoria Street, SW1
01-828 2401

Personnel

EC2

to £11,000

This very prestigious, well-established company is seeking two exceptional Shortband Secretaries/College Leavers to work in its Personnel Department. Mortgage subsidy, personal loans, profit share, STL and other benefits. Ref: S99.

34 Wornwood Street, EC2
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Retail Value

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Good promotional prospects are offered to a Grade 5 Shortband Secretary who would enjoy being part of this large retailing company. WP cross-training will be given along with excellent benefits. Ref: S3160.

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1992

Can you speak to Europe in its own language?

DUTCH conversational. Secretary. Computer Manager. Bank. City. D/W III. Regular hours. Early 20's. £10,000 + free travel Mortgage + banking benefits.

GERMAN fluent. PA. Partner. International Management Consultancy. Munich. Shortband + WP. 4-5 years experience. 24-30. £15,500 + perks + relocation allowance.

GERMAN &/OR FRENCH fluent. Marketing Assistant High Tech. City. Shortband + WP. £12,000 + benefits + flexitime.

TEMPING WITH LANGUAGES
WP experience essential
Shortband always useful

This week's comp! - High level finance with French. Top PA with shortband. Wordplex essential. West End.

International Secretaries

01-491 7100

CHARTLEIGH

HEADLINE £7.50
Use your WP skills to secure this 8 month booking working with the local environment. An international publishing company. You will be working with 2 young dynamic managers on a specific project requiring your imagination and initiative.

PA WONDERS £12,500
Do you enjoy responsibility and variety and desire the daily challenge of typing? The prospect of a career in a company with strong promotional events, supervising staff as well as providing full secretarial support for the MD. A rewarding, stimulating position.

NEGOTIATE A CAREER £10,500
As a result of internal promotion, this fast moving international property management company are seeking a team-spirited secretary with plenty of initiative to become an integral part of their success story. Secretarial level and a 4 week holiday - plus excellent promotional prospects.

MAKE FRIENDS £10,750+
A colorful career within architectural design can be yours if you have a strong sense of responsibility and a willingness to move on. Excellent training is given within this lively, professional and friendly environment.

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01-638 7003

CHAIRMAN'S PA SW1 £15,000

This is an ideal opportunity for a very bright and ambitious young secretary to join the Chairman's office of this international company. This would suit a professional and intelligent person who possesses immaculate secretarial skills/personal appearance and who enjoys working in a fast-moving and often pressurised environment. The Chairman has a wide range of business and personal interests and the job offers scope for development. Age 25-40. Speeds 110/70 + WP.

COBBOLD AND DAVIS
RECRUITMENT LTD.

35 Bruton Place W1. 01-483 7793

SWEET P.A.

£13 - 14,000

Assist the M.D. of this international Finance company, in smart London offices. He is an excellent delegator, therefore your role will be highly administrative, running the office, and providing PA/Secretarial support (typing, WP, no s/h). Liaison with European clients - languages an asset though not vital. Demanding at times, relaxed on occasion, you will need first class communication skills, poise, professionalism and most important a sense of humour. 26+

Jane Houlston Associates
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MUSIC

£14,000

Artist management, record releasing, music publishing and property development + all the fun of the Kings Road are yours as secretary/administrator to the Finance Director + Company Secretary. Package includes £1,000 bonus; shorthand necessary.

Call 439-7001

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The Secretarial Consultants

PRIVATE SECRETARY
IDEALLY AGED 28 - 40

Small office in quiet garden square near Victoria station. The work is varied and challenging and involves both commercial and personal activities for the Chairman. Good secretarial skills as well as a cheerful personality and adaptability are needed. Usual company benefits. Salary not less than £12,000 p.a.

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sucht zum 1. November 1988 in Frankfurt

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zur Erledigung allgemeiner Sekretariatsaufgaben (deutsche und englische Korrespondenz). Perfekte Stenographie- und Schreibmaschinenkenntnisse setzen wir voraus. EDV-Kenntnisse wären von Vorteil. Englische Muttersprache sowie fließend Deutsch in Wort und Schrift sind unbedingt erforderlich. Wenn Sie einsatzbereit und belastbar sind, begrüßen wir Sie gern in unserem kleinen, weltweit tätigen Team. Vorstellungsgespräche können in London vereinbart werden. Bitte senden Sie Ihre Bewerbungsunterlagen (tab. Lebenslauf, Zeugniskopien, Lichtbild) an:

MEPC Germany GmbH, z.Hd. Herrn Wright
EUROHAUS, Lyoner Straße 26, 6000 Frankfurt 71, Germany
Tel: 010-49-69-66666 77

SECRETARY TO CORPORATE TAX DEPARTMENT

Polygram is one of the world's leading record companies with interests also in CDV, Music-Video, Films and Music Publishing.

An efficient Shortband Secretary aged 22-25 is required to work for a team of three international tax specialists. Candidates should possess a good educational background, excellent English and must be used to dealing with complicated figure work. The ability to communicate effectively at all levels, confidentiality and mature personality are just as important as first-class secretarial skills. A knowledge of Philips 5040 WP and Lotus 123 would be an advantage but training could be provided. Benefits include annual bonus, LVS, free product entitlement, STL and the use of the company gym.

Please write enclosing a full CV and daytime telephone number to: Jov Hamlyn, Personnel Officer, PolyGram International Limited, 30 Berkeley Square, LONDON W1X 5HA (fax: 01-499 25961 or call 01-493 8800 Ext. 237).

PolyGram

MACKAY for Secretaries

OPEN THURSDAYS UNTIL 7PM

PA (NO SHORTHAND)

£12,500

Excellent opportunity in the finance of a successful company. As the individual personal assistant, your duties will include: typing, diary, travel arrangements and ensure the smooth running of the office. Salary City office. Accounts typing. Call Corn Walls

ADMINISTRATOR/PA

£15,000

The career opportunity of a shadowing position with a leading company with dynamic MD of large company who will help you to develop your skills. Finance, administration, diary, travel and ensure the smooth running of the office. Salary City office. Accounts typing. Call Corn Walls

PA £13,000 + TOP BERS

Working 9.45 - 5.30. This is a high profile position as PA to the Secretary of a large professional association. You will be working on a one to one basis, and are responsible for the day to day running of the office. This is a challenging role, offering a chance to develop your skills. Call Joell Thomas

The Specialist Consultancy for Secretaries!

70-71 New Bond Street (Oxford St. end) 01/491 0383

ADMINISTRATIVE PA

To £15,000

Enjoy a full senior level PA role in the administrative office of this European sales company. Organise training courses and seminars, book hotels, liaise constantly with personnel and help organise a busy office. 100/60 skills, languages very useful.

SENIOR PA/BANKING

£14,000 + Exc Benefits

Senior executive of this International Bank needs a top PA to organise his business and personal life. Liaise with clients, make initial new business calls and organise extremely complex travel itineraries and a busy diary. Excellent secretarial skills essential.

Please telephone 01-248 3744
Early/late appointments arranged.

Elizabeth Hunt

Recruitment Consultants

2 Bow Lane London EC4

BUSINESS CENTRE

SECRETARY/SUPERVISOR

A bright personable individual is sought for this position at The Churchill, a five star West End hotel. The individual should have good secretarial skills plus the interest and ability to work somewhat independently with an entrepreneurial approach. Excellent grooming and verbal abilities required; hotel experience not essential. Salary negotiable.

Please apply to
Ms. Caroline Philip, Personnel Dept.
before September 30th.

THE CHURCHILL

30 Portman Square, London W1A 4ZX

Tel: 01-486 5880

P.A. TO

MANAGING DIRECTOR/

U.S. CORPORATION

Immediate Opening in the world's leading private management company. Top skills in shorthand, word-processing; initiative, well-organised, detail-conscious, international knowledge for travel arrangements/business practices, fluency in German a plus. Salary negotiable.

Please send C.V. in confidence to:
Ms. N. Stiles
SMGI

35 Dover St, London, W1X 3RA

INTERNATIONAL

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£17,500

An international bank based in the City is expanding to include an Economic Research Department.

A small, committed team is setting up operations to provide services for their worldwide offices, in particular to ensure the bank's continuing position in Europe for 1992. Your role will be one of secretarial and administrative support to the team and you will use your outgoing approach to help build a network of new contacts.

A working knowledge of French or German and a City background, together with WP and computer experience will enable you to contribute significantly to the success of this new department.

AGE: 25-35
SAL: £17,500
SKE: 100/60

City Office:

01-726 8491

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BANKING

£18-20,000

package

This prestigious post is open to secretaries with min. 2 A's in shorthand and WP. You will be PA to the Deputy MD of a City Bank and this promises to be a thoroughly interesting and absorbing role.

Please apply to
Ms. Caroline Philip, Personnel Dept.
before September 30th.

THE CHURCHILL

30 Portman Square, London W1A 4ZX

Tel: 01-486 5880

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ITALIAN

SECRETARY

for small busy import agency London NW7. Audio typing and general office duties for 100/60. 28-35. £22,500.

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Invest in your future

Merrill Lynch is one of the largest and most diversified financial institutions with a reputation for providing a range of services that is difficult to match.

We have immediate vacancies for Secretaries with good administrative skills with at least two years' experience. You must be self-motivated and keen to become thoroughly involved in your career.

Excellent secretarial skills are required, either shorthand or audio, coupled with knowledge of WP (IBM Displaywrite 4 preferable). You should be able to demonstrate your good organisational ability and communication skills. Excellent benefits package offered along with a competitive salary, depending on age and experience.

Please write with brief career details, including your current salary level and daytime telephone number if possible to: Linda Murray, Recruitment Officer, Merrill Lynch Europe Limited, Ropemaker Place, 25 Ropemaker Street, London EC2Y 9LY.



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A breed apart.

WHAT'S NEW ?

£14,000 Package

New job; new Capital Markets team within a well-established merchant bank; newly appointed Head of Marketing.

Working with the Head of Marketing and the Main Board Director who heads up the team will give plenty of scope for involvement. Your two-fold role will be to provide secretarial support (with a junior) and to help the team in the expansion of their software systems.

This includes setting up a marketing database, learning new software, producing departmental brochures and organising the PC work as necessary.

We are looking for a cheerful secretary with a knowledge of WP systems to make the most of this new position. Age range 23-35. Good audio (60 wpm). Benefits include an immediate mortgage subsidy, free lunch and BUPA. Call Cathy Ferguson on 588 5535 for more details.

Crone Corkill

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Personal Secretary

£14,500

The need for a personal secretary is definitely not over for this client, the Deputy Chairman of a group of Executive Resource Consultancies. As Personal Assistant you will be secretary, sounding board, administrator, person and organiser. In return you will be given 100% support by an appreciative boss who will rely on you to handle all business and personal matters with total discretion.

Age: 25-45

Skills: 100/60

RECRUITMENT

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UP TO £13,000 + UNUSUAL PERKS

One of the most highly sought jobs in London - for this is what everybody craves for... and extremely important role of your own kind, when combined with the rest of the team, is an exciting and highly rewarding career. A combination of sole responsibility... your professional skills and entrepreneurial business acumen are essential as well as your natural ability to organise yourself and other people because working for this go-getting and rapidly expanding small, young and fun team your whole involvement and spirited enthusiasm will lead to a career of your making... Past secretarial experience is important (you must be able to type) as you will be doing all your own correspondence - more importantly it is your character that will win you a place with this exciting company that is seriously going places (London now... Paris?... Brussels?... Hong Kong?... Sydney?) Ideally you must be under 24 and determined to succeed as an individual.

50 Pall Mall St. James's London SW1 5LB Telephone: 01-825 0548

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ordinary job

Some people want a special job. If you are good and looking for something different in TV, film, advertising, music, PR and publishing - call us.

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SH/PA SECRETARY £12K++

Aged 19-35, you will be assisting the MD of one of the most dynamic and successful advertising agencies in London. Working with top clients and expected to contribute to the firm, you will need all your charm and wit about you, along with excellent secretarial skills, to reward you in this exciting role with excellent prospects.

Call Kaye 583 1661, 50 Fleet Street EC4 or Kathy 408 1444, 70-71 New Bond Street W1.

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USE YOUR LANGUAGES

£13,000 neg.

Based in W1 join this rapidly expanding financial services company as PA to their MD. You will be trained to take on a range of administrative projects. You should have a good knowledge of a European language and 50 wpm audio ability.

Please telephone 01-240 3511
Early/late appointments arranged.

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A PA OF DISTINCTION

to £12000

You are probably reading this now as a Senior Secretary, but you are underutilized & under appreciated and you would be keen to have more variety, in an Aristocratic but busy commercial environment... My Client, a reversed and internationally known small Art Company, based in SW1 needs a top PA, who originally has an excellent Secretarial Training and a good General Education BUT who now can cope with this diverse & fascinating job... organising a Photographic Library... helping to put together Exhibitions... talking to Clients competently in person & on the phone... helping with a beautiful Sculpture Garden... Looking after the highly independent Professional owner of this establishment... Exhibition brochures, need sending... Pictures collecting and a trip to New York needs doing! If you are over 30 & the proud possessor of both shorthand & typing (80/80) & you are a PA of Distinction call Amanda Maine-Tucker.

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Maine-Tucker

EXPERT ON THE WP?

SALARY UNLIMITED! - £15,000 +

Here is someone who will pay generously for your first-class Word Processing skills provided you can combine them with real common sense and initiative. It is a small friendly set-up where Team Work is vital and so your Personality will really be as important as your skills. The Company is keen to have its staff on the move and you will have the chance to go on specialist courses, supplementing your excellent experience! There is very little overtime and the company has a flexible approach to its staff. Probably mid 20's to 40's. Night person more important than money.

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EAGER BEAVER COLLEGE LEAVER...

£8 - 10,000

Are you eagerly seeking that first job where your personality is far more important than having speedy secretarial skills? Then why not join this famous SW1 Public Relations Company who's reputation goes before it - you will be given the chance to learn in a young, friendly atmosphere where special care is taken to see that you are happy. Call us for a chat to hear more.

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DMB&B

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MEDIA MATTERS

£11,000 neg

DMB & B are a large international Advertising Agency in St James's Sq, which is a 4 min walk from Piccadilly tube station. We are looking for an intelligent, flexible and enthusiastic secretary to work for the Deputy Head of Media and his group.

Our ideal applicant would be someone, have excellent typing and administration skills, and the ability to liaise confidently with our staff and the contractors from the Press, Radio and Television. Exp of an IBM computer or WP would be an advantage, although training would be given.

If you are seeking a new challenge, have an interest in Advertising and Communications and feel you can contribute your skills and energies we would like to hear from you. We have 4 weeks both STL and private health schemes and a sub phone and wine bar. For further details telephone Mrs Helen Bryant, 839 3422.

DMB & B, 2 St James's Sq, SW1.
No Agencies

RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES

International Youth Travel Company specialising

in English language courses requires a highly

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THE FASTEST SELLING TIMESHARE IN EUROPE AT THE MOST INCREDIBLE PRICE IN THE WORLD

The Club Riviera Timeshare Resort at Calahonda on Spain's Costa Del Sol has become Europe's fastest selling Timeshare even before completion. Our fantastic success is due to our incredibly high quality at the most competitive prices imaginable. The development will soon be totally finished and will be one of the most fabulous in the world. The standards are simply luxurious and the facilities unmatched. All apartments enjoy sea views from large balconies. Each has solid marble floors throughout, two bathrooms are included as standard, the superb fully fitted and fully equipped kitchen must be seen, good food and extensive sporting facilities are available on site and entertainment and shopping of every kind are not too far away. Even staying in can be a pleasure with worldwide reception on your Satellite Television. You would expect all this to cost the earth and very soon it might but in the meantime, we are offering a very special opportunity. We will sell all the weeks in a limited number of apartments at the most incredible price ever seen in the world of Timeshare. All these weeks give total flexibility. As an owner at Club Riviera you could of course request exchange through RCI into any other resort in over 70 countries around the world.

OUR AMAZING SPECIAL OFFER PRICE IS:

HIGH SEASON	(RED)	£1,995
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This price is for each week you purchase in a 5 star fully fitted sea view apartment accommodating up to 6 people in utter luxury. It belongs to you or your family forever! You can use it, rent it out, sell it, bequeath it, exchange it for holidays at any other resort and take up to 6 people along, or do with it whatever you wish.

In addition to this special pre-release price Club Riviera will pay your first two years RCI membership fees and your first years maintenance fees.

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A CLOSER LOOK AT

NEW HOMES

"Right, Graham. Dinner at 6.00... and then let's see the showhomes at Prusom's Island."

Meet Lesley. She and her other half, Graham, are active, busy people. They want to buy a really special home in Wapping, and they don't have time to waste.

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Prusom's Island is our newest development - and one of Wapping's most distinguished addresses - with a stylish choice of flats and houses.

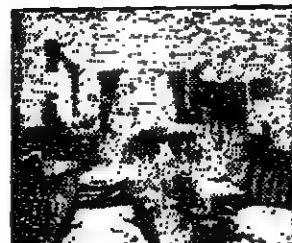
Choose a studio, one, two or three-bedroom flat from our converted 18th century listed



warehouse. You'll enjoy many original 'character' features like exposed brickwork, warehouse-style windows... plus a host of super-modern features too.

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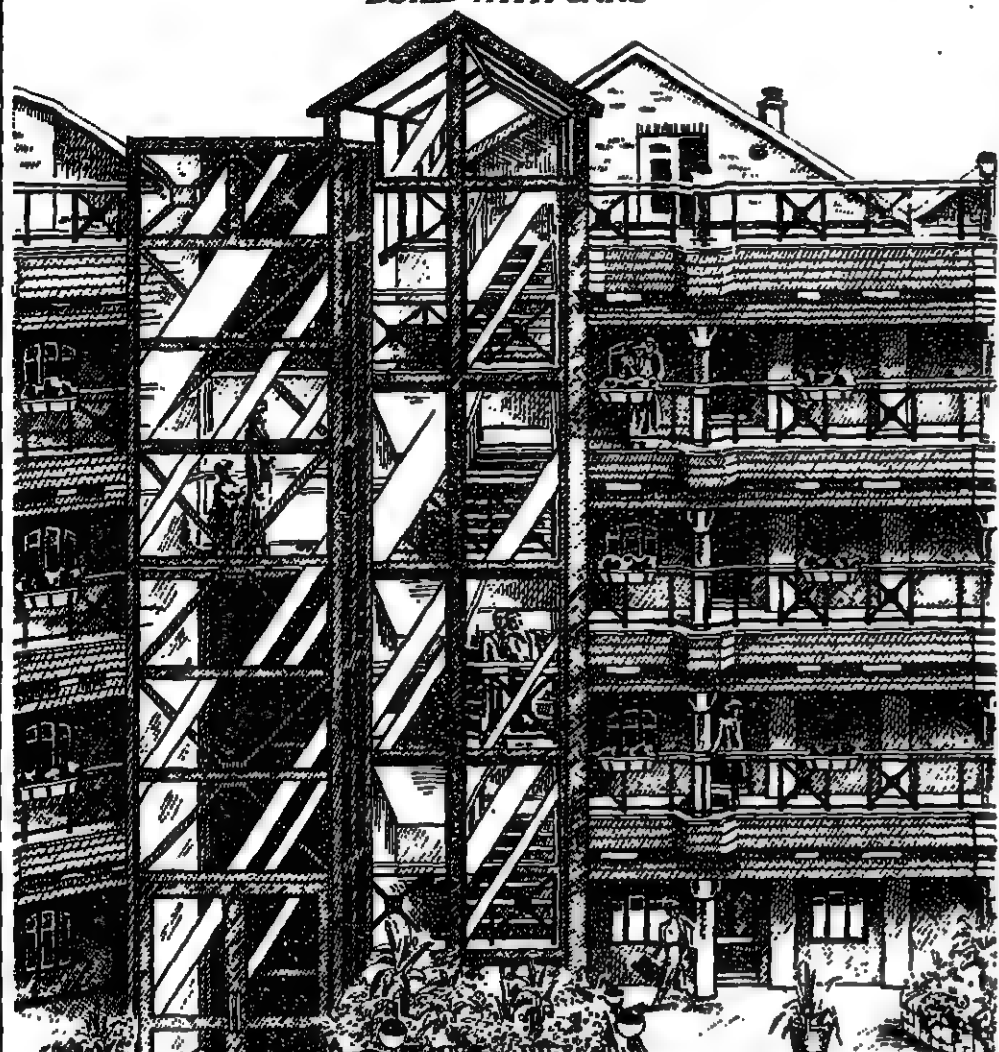
prestigious living, Prusom's Island houses form a crescent around an artistically presented central courtyard.

Winners of The Housebuilder of the Year Award, Waters give you more than quality, originality, and choice. We also offer a complete Home Exchange Service to help you buy your new home and sell your old one. Ask for details when you visit Prusom's Island now.

Prices range from just £397,000 to £345,000. And, remember, with our extended hours, now you can see our seven brand-new showhomes at Prusom's Island... almost any time you like.

Tel: 01-481 3576 for details.

wates
BUILD WITH CARE



PRUSOM'S ISLAND
Waters Built Homes London Ltd., Prusom's Island, Flat 13, 135 Wapping High Street, Wapping E1 9XX. Tel: 01-481 3576.

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Price upon application.

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0673 258371

Exclusive Northants homes. Inclusive of Country Club.

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The 25, 4 and 5 bed detached homes in this, our final phase, also have the hallmark of exclusivity. Set in groups of 3 or 4 in beautiful courtyards, with individual walled entrances, they boast the very latest and very best home appliance packages.

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WESTBURY HOMES
10 NEWTON DOVE, FLETCHER

VIEWING BY APPOINTMENT

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ST PAUL'S CRESCENT, LONDON NW1

An exciting mews designed by the leading architects Campbell Zogolovitch Wilkinson & Gough, a stone's throw from the City and West End.

This brand new gated cobbled mews of 30 houses will be beautifully landscaped offering 5 different styles of exceptionally spacious houses. Each house is on 3 floors with integral GARAGE and town GARDEN.

- * Fully Equipped Kitchen
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- * NHBC Guarantee

Prices from £195,000-£230,000

JOHN D WOOD & CO.
103 Parkway, Regents Park, NW1 01-267 3267
Contact Patricia Greenstone

JAMES HARRIS

ROMSEY ROAD

OFFERS INVITED FOR THE FREEHOLD TWO INDIVIDUAL ELEGANT LUXURY HOMES BUILT IN A CLASSICAL VENETIAN PALAZZO STYLE. CLOSE TO THE HEART OF THE ANCIENT CITY OF WINCHESTER THE FIRST HOUSE IS NOW NEARING COMPLETION AND CONSISTS OF:

5 BEDROOMS, 4 BATHROOMS, DRAWING ROOM, DINING ROOM, KITCHEN, CONSERVATORY/LIVING ROOM OPENING ONTO ILLUMINATED TERRACE, ROOF TERRACE, JACUZZI, DOUBLE GLAZING, SECURITY SYSTEM, GAS CH, DOUBLE GARAGE, MARBLE FLOORED RECEPTION HALLS, GARDENS, INTERIOR DECOR BY INTERNATIONAL DESIGNER.

ITCHEN ABAS, NR WINCHESTER

GUIDE PRICE £300,000

A LUXURIOUS FIVE BEDROOM DETACHED FAMILY RESIDENCE BUILT ON A GARDEN PLOT IN THE HEART OF THIS CHARMING VILLAGE. TO BE COMPLETED BY OCTOBER 1988. 5 BEDROOMS.

2 BATHROOMS, SPACIOUS LANDING AND HALLWAY, 5 RECEPTION ROOMS, LARGE KITCHEN/BREAKFAST ROOM, UTILITY ROOM, ENTRANCE LOBBY, CLOAKROOM, DOUBLE GARAGE, DOUBLE GLAZING, FULL GAS CH.

GARDENS APPROX. 0.25 OF AN ACRE.

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OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £275,000

IN THE HEART OF A BEAUTIFUL HAMPSHIRE VILLAGE, A NEW DEVELOPMENT OF FOUR PRESTIGE FAMILY HOMES NEARING COMPLETION. DESIGNED IN COTTAGE STYLE TO A HIGH SPECIFICATION. 4 BEDROOMS, 2 BATHROOMS, DRAWING ROOM, DINING ROOM, STUDY, OAK FITTED KITCHEN, UTILITY ROOM, DOUBLE GARAGE, DOUBLE GLAZING.

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OFFERS IN EXCESS OF £275,000 PRELIMINARY ANNOUNCEMENT

A SUPERB LUXURY DETACHED FAMILY RESIDENCE TO BE COMPLETED BY NOVEMBER 1988 SITUATED IN A PLOT OF JUST OVER 1/2 ACRE. MASTER SUITE INCORPORATING BATHROOM AND DRESSING ROOM.

3 FURTHER DOUBLE BEDROOMS, ENSUITE SHOWER ROOM, FAMILY BATHROOM, SPACIOUS LANDING AND HALL, DRAWING ROOM, DINING ROOM, FAMILY ROOM, STUDY, KITCHEN/BREAKFAST ROOM, UTILITY ROOM, DOUBLE GARAGE, GAS CH, DOUBLE GLAZING, SECURITY SYSTEM, GARDENS.

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PLOT 1 £275,000 PLOT 2 £250,000

TWO SUPERB NEW PROPERTIES PRESENTLY IN THE COURSE OF CONSTRUCTION QUIETLY LOCATED IN A SMALL TOWN IN THE TEST VALLEY. WHITCHURCH HAS EXCELLENT COMMUNICATIONS FOR WINCHESTER, BASINGSTOKE AND LONDON.

4 BEDROOMS, 2 BATHROOMS, DRAWING ROOM, DINING ROOM, STUDY, KITCHEN/BREAKFAST ROOM, UTILITY, STUDY, FAMILY ROOM, GARAGE, GARDENS.

BISHOP'S WALTHAM

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £225,000

AN INDIVIDUAL FAMILY HOUSE IN A PLEASANT LOCATION ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF BISHOP'S WALTHAM. THIS HOUSE IS IDEALLY LOCATED FOR ACCESS TO SOUTHAMPTON AND PORTSMOUTH, AND HAS BEEN CONSTRUCTED TO THE HIGHEST QUALITY MATERIALS.

4 BEDROOMS, BATHROOM, SHOWER ROOM, DRAWING ROOM, DINING ROOM, STUDY, KITCHEN, UTILITY, DOUBLE GARAGE.

WINCHESTER

FOUR MAGNIFICENT DETACHED HOUSES BEING BUILT ON HIGH GROUND ON THE SLOPES OF ST GILES' HILL. CLOSE TO ALL LOCAL AMENITIES FINISHED TO THE HIGHEST SPECIFICATION.

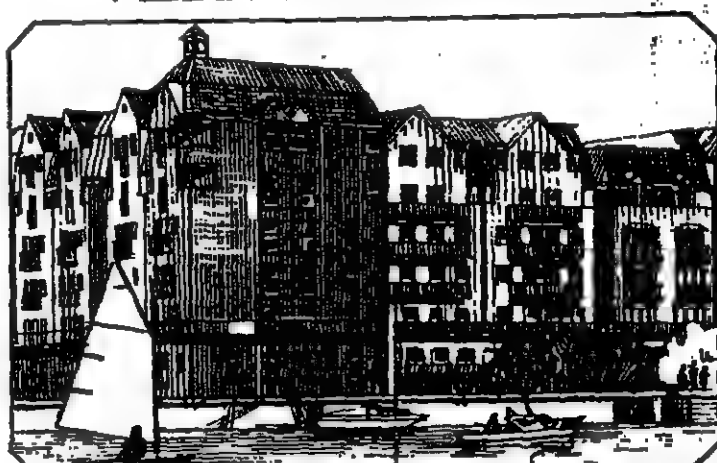
THE HOUSES WILL HAVE 4 OR 5 BEDROOMS. PRICES FROM £225,000.

ALL ENQUIRIES TO:

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JEWREY STREET, WINCHESTER (0962) 841842

VERMEER COURT



IS IT LONDON? IS IT AMSTERDAM? OR IS IT YOURS? FROM ONLY £118,000.

Vermeer Court is a new luxury development of quality homes at the very edge of the Thames. In the lively heart of London's Docklands. The traditional charm of the Dutch-style design blends perfectly with the waterfront setting, and subtly evokes the atmosphere of carabide Amsterdam.

Now that the development is completed, there are only fourteen maisonettes and flats still available: 1 bedroom plus study, 2 and 3 bedrooms. All these superb homes, from only £118,000, are on the upper floors, with excellent river views and balconies. They are fully carpeted throughout to a high standard; ensuite showers, separate furnishings,

fully fitted kitchens, independent gas central heating and comprehensive security systems complete the picture.

To see our show flat, or for further information, phone 01-538 2812, or contact VOM UK, 54 Vermeer Court, Rembrandt Close, London Docklands E14.

But please do it now. As you stroll through the nine carefully landscaped acres, or pause by the picturesque central watergarden, with its Dutch canal bridge among the lilies, you'll soon see why there's so much demand for a new home in Vermeer Court.

So like Amsterdam, you'll only minutes from the City!

vom (uk) Ltd.

Danehow Cox

LONDON & COUNTRY HOMES

Hadley Lodge, Hadley Wood, Hertfordshire

17 Crescent East, Hadley Wood, Hertfordshire

OPEN WEEKEND

SAT 1st OCTOBER 10-4 pm

SUN 2nd OCTOBER 10-4 pm

A unique development of superbly appointed character converted flats in this prestigious conservation area. Five tastefully designed homes are available with a choice of 1, 2 and 3 bedrooms.

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10 Greenhill Parade, Great North Road, Barnet, Herts.

VIEWING 12 noon-2pm

A KELLY HOUSE DEVELOPMENT

PRINCE & REGENT MEWS

Netley Street, Euston NW1

An outstanding Georgian style mews in this secure courtyard setting. This brand new gated development offers 19 superb flat maisonettes with 2-3 bedrooms. Car parking facilities. 125 year leases. Prices £137,000 - £280,000

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Detached Family Houses by FAIRBRIAR HOMES LIMITED

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LAST FEW FLATS REMAINING IN PRESTIGE RETIREMENT DEVELOPMENT

Virtually on Eastbourne's famous seafront. One and two bedroom flats with usual Continental facilities. Medallion heating, Fully equipped Kitchens, Fitted Carpets. Prices from £55,000.

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Delightfully situated in a quiet cul-de-sac on the outskirts of the market town with far reaching views.

A delightful development of 1 detached and Semi-Detached Two and Three Bedroom Cottages. Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing. Prices from £77,000.

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Delightfully located development of new houses, Charming and Spacious. Views towards the Downs yet only 4 miles from Eastbourne.

COMING SOON

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SHORTLY TO BE RELEASED

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A Mews house in Battersea - unique.

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Prices from £250,000.

For further details contact 01-675-3491.

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1, 2, 3 & 4 bedroom homes from £179,950 to £190,000.

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London

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All reserved. Awaiting cancellations.

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West Sussex

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Surrey

Kingston

1, 2 & 3 bedroom homes to be released in late summer.

For further information on prices and availability of each site: Hunting Gate Homes, Chiltern Limited, 1 Park Street, Harlow, Essex S11 1RT Tel: 0438 9244

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2 new individual high class detached properties of luxurious proportions in exclusive location within this picturesque village. Each property has own separate private river gill with approx. 100 ft. frontage. For spec. 4 bed 2 bath, 3 cars, gas ch. Dist. approx. £125,000 each.

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RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY

Christopher Warman finds that plentiful funds could mean larger loans for first-timers

Builders look on the bright side

Two of the 97 estate agents taking part in the latest survey of house prices by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors reported that the price of new homes in their area had gone down in the past three months.

Although this is only a tiny proportion, it indicates the dramatic change in the housing market while interest rates have been rising. Remember, a reduction in prices was unheard of a month or two ago.

The House Builders' Federation says evidence of price-cutting in the new homes market is scarce, although it agrees that the main effect of the interest rate rises has been to damp down the spectacular price increases seen in the previous year or two.

A seminar held by the federation last week heard several examples of new homes sold as soon as they came on to the market, particularly in the North. In Lancashire about 100 prospective purchasers queued at Alfred McAlpine Homes' newly opened Wilton Chase development in Radcliffe to buy houses costing from £57,500 to £69,950, while further south, at Amphil in Bedfordshire, Taylor Woodrow Homes reported people queuing for two days a week for the release of detached houses whose prices ranged from £118,000 to £172,000.

The federation is therefore taking a confident view, arguing that

the ready availability of mortgage funds means the lending institutions will be keen to market financial packages, making higher mortgage rates affordable for first-time buyers.

These could include subsidised interest rates, deferred interest, low-start and fixed-rate mortgages. The federation says: "In the medium term, with unemployment falling, real incomes rising and the economy clearly buoyant, the market can only strengthen. The housebuilding industry is confident that interest rates will fall again in 1989."

Everybody may have a different house

It suggests home-buyers realize that the first reduction in rates will push house prices up again, and that they are even now trying to take advantage of the lull in house price rises, despite the temporary increase in the cost of borrowing.

David Wilson Homes, based in Leicester, caters for an increasingly discerning market and is offering a choice of more than 150 house styles, thus enabling every owner to have a house different from his neighbour.

David Wilson Homes knows that in its up-market range there is a strong demand for en suite bathrooms and even en suite guest shower rooms. There is also a

demand for a study on the ground floor to be used as an office and for a children's computer room or sitting room, features that are built into two new developments at Coventry and Kenilworth, Warwickshire. For information telephone 0203 411075.

Hunting Gate Homes of Hitchin, Hertfordshire, builds its homes in the commuter rings around London, and pays attention to locations and developments to the "hope value" of an area - the hope of increased value through taking advantage of improving road and rail communications. The Castlewood scheme near Horsham, West Sussex, is 15 miles from the coast and from Gatwick Airport, and one hour by train from London.

It aims to cater for first-time buyers, families and executives with a range that includes one-bedroom maisonettes (from around £62,000), two-bedroom terrace cottages (from £80,000), and three-bedroom and four-bedroom detached houses (from £108,000 and £135,000 respectively).

Hunting Gate gives the cost of the train fare as well as the price of the houses in its developments. Thus, at Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, it has a scheme with two-bedroom and three-bedroom terrace houses from £76,950, and another, two miles from the town, of four-bedroom and five-bedroom houses from £180,000 - and

the annual season ticket to Marylebone is £1,308.

At Colchester, Essex, it is selling studio apartments (£47,500), and two-bedroom starter homes (from £62,000), and from here the annual train fare is £1,420.

Hunting Gate has introduced a new financial help scheme at these lower-priced developments, under which the company guarantees an interest rate of 11.5 per cent for 12 months for those whose mortgages do not exceed £60,000, paying the difference in interest up to a maximum rate of 15 per cent. For

'Residence for a gentleman'

information telephone 04623 4444.

An unusual development of four detached houses near Whipsnade, Bedfordshire, has been announced by Tay Country Homes. Every one of the houses, described as "gentlemen's country residences", is set in about two acres, and will be individually designed to provide four reception rooms, five bedrooms, four bathrooms, a fitness room and staff flats.

These exclusive houses will cost more than £700,000. For information telephone 0525 853385.

An interesting alternative at this price level is provided by the 18 four-storey town houses surrounding Admiral Square in the Chelsea

Harbour development in west London. These large houses, of 2,770 sq ft, have a fifth-floor conservatory, and a combination of four or five bedrooms, three bathrooms, and two or three reception rooms. The prices, through Savills and Hamptons, range from £750,000 to £850,000.

The first stage of Chelsea Harbour is now nearing completion. The marina is in use, the commercial space is nearly all let, four restaurants are open, more than 200 apartments are sold and about 150 homes are so far occupied.

The houses, and 48 new apartments costing from £250,000 for two bedrooms, bring the total to 310 in the development, and a regular river bus service has just been introduced by Thames Line to link Chelsea Harbour with Charing Cross, the City and Docklands.

New houses are rare in Mayfair, so there is considerable interest in the building of two fine adjoining properties in Farm Street by Private Capital (Property Development), a member of the Private Capital Group. The houses are part mews and part town house, designed to blend with the existing houses of different periods, one with a painted front, the other plain brick, one in Georgian style, the other Victorian. They are priced at £1.65 million and £1.45 million, through Cuttons and Mistral.



Riverside affluence: town houses at Chelsea Harbour from £750,000

A CLOSER LOOK AT... NEW HOMES

Kingswood Court, Kingswood, Surrey
GRACIOUS LIVING AWAITS
AT KINGSWOOD COURT

These developments are as well suited to luxurious living than Kingswood Court, Kingswood, Surrey.

These spacious four and five bedroom detached homes are built to the highest standards including three to four ideally proportioned reception rooms, a high-tech kitchen, two bathrooms and a double garage.

And, set in the village of Kingswood, near Bournemouth they offer easy access to the M25, yet open countryside, the downs, Walton Heath and Kingswood golf courses are only a short drive away.

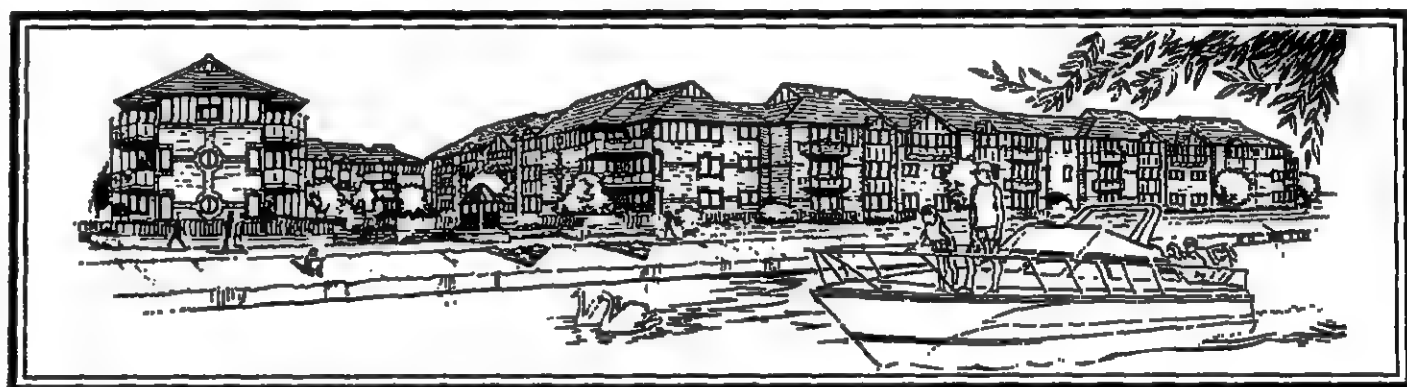
View these superior homes for yourself.

Prices start from £360,000



Our Sales Office welcomes visitors every day between 11am and 4pm.
Tel: (0731) 833348. Or, contact our Selling Agents:
Slades, 26 Chipstead Parade, Chipstead, Surrey.
Tel: Downland (07375) 52251.

Prowling
HOMES

"Caversham Wharf...where the livin' is easy
and the views are spectacular."

With 36 unique flats - and just as many river views - Caversham Wharf is the most prestigious, most exciting address on this beautiful part of the Thames.

Built by 'Housebuilder of the Year' Wates, each of these luxurious two and three bedroom flats is designed for easy, low-cost maintenance and gracious living which includes:

- Fully-fitted Rational kitchen with Siemens appliances including fridge, freezer, oven, microwave/hall oven/grill, hob, hood, washer/dryer, waste disposal and high quality vinyl flooring.
- Built-in wardrobes.
- Gas central heating, full insulation and double glazing.
- Beautiful bedrooms in your choice of tiles.
- Private patio or balcony.
- Garage or carport for residents plus ample parking for guests.



- Landscaped grounds, fenced for privacy.
- Up-to-the-minute safety and security systems.
- The location is irresistible! Right on the river by Caversham Bridge - yet only a quick walk from the local shops. Just half a mile to Reading Station - and only 30 minutes from Paddington. (Besides an excellent train service, Reading also offers outstanding shopping!)

When you want character...convenience...and style (as well as swans for neighbours)...visit Caversham Wharf now: Choose a two or three bedroom flat - each with its own river view. Prices from £107,500 to £225,000.

Show flats are open 9.30am to 5.30pm Mon-Sat Caversham Wharf, Waterman Place, off Caversham Road, Reading, Berks.

Tel: 0234 572472
Prices and availability correct at time of going to press.

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WINNER OF A 50% AND 10% 'WHAT HOUSE' AWARD
DAILY EXPRESS 1988 HOUSEBUILDER OF THE YEAR
WINNER OF 9 CERTIFICATES OF MERIT

STOP PRESS... Exhibition of Retirement Bungalows available in East Anglia, in the Carlsberg Suite, The Cumberland Hotel, Marble Arch, London W1A 3JF. Adjacent to Marble Arch underground station and Park Lane car park on Friday 7th October 1988. 10.30am - 4.30pm. Everyone welcome.

WINCHESTER VILLAGE LIFE FOR EXECUTIVE LIVING
with 3 bedroom luxury homes

NBC
TOP LINE BUILDING SERVICES

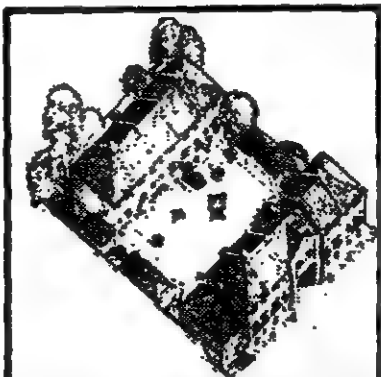
From £235,000 these luxury 3 bedroom homes are now available at this exclusive development, as well as 4 bedroom houses with 2 & 4 bedrooms. Each is built to the highest specification with every attention paid to quality and detail - the showroom is open from 11am - 5pm, 3 days a week, Thursday to Monday, Tel: (0932) 75526.

THE DOLPHINS HURLEY VILLAGE

WIGGINS HOMES
Wiggin 24 for Bedford
Tel: (0232) 30252

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MUNSTER ROAD, SW6

Last chance to buy in popular new courtyard development



2 only remaining 3 & 4 bed from £258,500
Showhouses open Thurs to Mon 10.30-5.00 pm
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WARDS CONSTRUCTION LTD

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Telephone: (0424) 217676

GLYNE VIEW

NEARING COMPLETION! - But HURRY!! The latest phase of new homes on this quality development of Houses and Bungalows by Messrs J.W. Stratton Ltd. Conveniently situated, with trains from Hastings to London-Charing Cross (1hr 20min) and Bexhill to London-Victoria plus regular bus services to the seaside town of Bexhill and surrounding areas. The properties are within walking distance of the 'Ravenside' leisure and shopping complex and also the beach at Glyne Gap.

The traditional brick built properties are offered with softwood windows and hardwood front doors, added benefits include:

- ★ WELL FITTED KITCHENS
- ★ 10 YEAR N.H.B. CERTIFICATE
- ★ GAS FIRED CENTRAL HEATING
- ★ 4" INSULATION TO ROOF SPACES
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ALL FROM AS LITTLE AS £84,750
(SUBJECT TO CONTRACT)



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Superb properties in attractive locations.
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Studios from £57,500, 1 bedroom apartments from £69,500
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Sales information on 01-274 0930 or 01-737 0952.

Tonsley Heights, East Hill, Wandsworth, London SW18.
Eagerly awaited new release of superb apartment homes
on this prestigious new development in the heart of London.
1 bedroom apartments from £86,250.
Sales information on 01-877 1469 or 01-877 1359.

Orchard Park, Thicket Road, Crystal Palace, London S.E.20.
Studios from £56,995, 3 bedroom houses from £97,750.
Sales information on 01-676 9642 or 01-676 8577

Sales offices open every day from 10.30am to 5.30pm

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Bayfordbury, Lower Hatfield Road, Hertford SG12 8EE Tel: (0992) 584980

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Magnificent brand new detached house, 4 bedrooms, 3 reception rooms, 3 bathrooms. Luxurious thru-out. Lge. gdn. Det garage. Rare opportunity to acquire a truly exceptional property.
£245,000
Richard Barclay
947 9141

Reserve in September
and hold your mortgage rate at
just 10% for the first two years!

CHESTNUT GRANGE



BENGO, HERTFORD, HERTFORDSHIRE.
Fine Country Homes of outstanding style and character.

The final four luxury homes on this award winning development have now been released.
Why not visit the exclusive new showhome this weekend and find out more about Fairclough Homes' new mortgage subsidy scheme, available now at Chestnut Grange.

Sales office and showhome open every day from 10am to 5.30pm. Telephone 0992 554275.

Fairclough Homes

Fairclough Homes Limited, Fairclough House, Church St., Ware, Herts. SG13 9ER. Telephone: 0920 3000

GORDON COURT
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Positive side to Johnson case

Seoul

A day of disgrace unprecedented in Olympic history is viewed almost unanimously by members of the International Olympic Committee and by the international sports federation as being to the long-term benefit of the Olympic Games.

The humiliation of Ben Johnson, the record-breaking 100 metres gold medal winner, followed by a positive drug test, will frighten and rationalize the entire Olympic community.

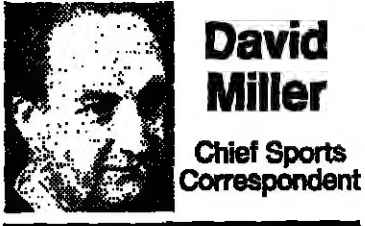
It needed such a momentous shock, the exposure for cheating of a champion in the most publicized of all events, to bring the expedient manipulators of professional success to their senses.

While the shadow of suspicion will hover for the moment over every medal winner, the fear of detection and exposure will, optimistically, prove a massive deterrent to potential future offenders.

"We are all involved in this problem," Marat Gramov, the Soviet sports minister and a new IOC member, said gravely yesterday. "We have to find a collective solution. It is a very sad day." Wajad Ali, of Pakistan, an IOC member since 1959, congratulated Juan Antonio Samaranch, the president, yesterday morning. "You have given a fine example at the top," he said.

The key to Johnson's expulsion, which began with the initial revela-

COMMENTARY



David Miller
Chief Sports Correspondent

tion to Canada's Olympic committee of a positive test in the early hours of Monday morning, lies in the far more militant stand adopted by Samaranch, and by Prince Alexandre de Merode, chairman of the medical commission, in the past year.

Lord Kilannin, the former IOC president, yesterday expressed the view that the International Amateur Athletic Federation had been far too lenient in 1980 in Moscow on positive tests.

It is evident that the IAAF has been pressurized by the IOC into a more dogmatic position. Events during Monday night and yesterday morning moved, under Merode's direction, against Johnson with a chilling inevitability: yet scrupulously fairly under the statutory terms of the commission in collaboration with the Canadian Olympic committee.

Johnson was out of Olympic City and on the way home in the early hours more quickly than an arrested

terrorist. The IOC was ready, indeed eager, in a manner never previously witnessed, to bite the bullet in a case immensely damaging to its prestige in the short term.

Samaranch, boldly facing the issue, said yesterday morning: "The bad news we can transfer into good news. This is not a disaster, for it shows the IOC is very serious, and that we are winning the battle for a clean Games. The gap between our aims and those who are cheating is narrowing. I am very sorry for Johnson, who is a great athlete, but he is not the only person we have to blame."

In a move to establish uniformity with the IAAF, Samaranch last year appointed to the Medical Commission Dr Arne Ljungqvist, of Sweden, a member of the IAAF medical commission. When Samaranch and Primo Nebiolo, the IAAF president, briefly met yesterday morning before the executive board's decision to expel Johnson, there was not a moment's hesitation in agreeing on the issue.

The evidence of Dr Robert Dugal of Canada, a member of the doping sub-commission, was dismissively emphatic: the profile of Stanozolol anabolic steroid in Johnson's urine was unequivocally positive, whatever the pathetic protests in defence that something had been fed into a soft drink before the race.

Under serious review must be the position of Charlie Francis, Johnson's coach, and Larry Heidebrecht,

his manager, who have shared extensively in Johnson's fame and commercial success.

The Canadians, frontrunners in the anti-drugs campaign, were deeply ashamed and angry: as was evident in the Press statement of Carol Ann Letheren, their team's chef de mission. They will extensively investigate the extent of blame.

At stake is the future involvement of government support for sporting projects. This fact will not be lost upon other governments whose sports officials, doctors and coaches, as well as athletes, may be already corrupted. No scandal could carry greater world-wide scorn than what has happened here.

James Worrall, Canada's senior IOC member elected in 1967 and born in Bury, Lancashire, felt the shame more than most. "Ben is basically a decent but simple young man, from a nice family," he said. "We have to find out the involvement of others."

The most alarming aspect of this numbing incident is that many people were openly saying yesterday that Johnson was unlucky, or must have been stupid to have been caught: an acknowledgement of the prevalence of drug-taking. An eastern European official even went so far as to say to a Canadian that their NOC should in future be "more careful".

Hardly less alarming is the fact

that, according to Dr Dugal, the side-effects of Stanozolol can include cancer of the liver. Colin Moynihan, the British Minister of Sport, said here last night: "It is imperative that the IOC now initiate random testing by independent commissions at any time of the year in any country, and I hope to impress this on other sports ministers."

It is to be hoped that British sport, alert to the dangers among Sports Council and British Olympic Association officers but slovenly among some individual federations, will now become more sensitive to the problem.

Canada will review its policy, which allows Johnson to be passed over in random testing at the Ottawa national championships. Johnson and those around him were undoubtedly desperate to beat Carl Lewis after recent defeats, and misjudged the timing of the dosage of Stanozolol.

In this depressing saga, Samaranch's warning opening speech two and a half weeks ago at the IOC session - "doping is death" - and Prince de Merode's calm, unwavering vigilance as head of a painstakingly thorough medical commission that regularly works half-way through the night, may have helped turn the tide. There will be many frightened competitors during the remaining five days of these Games.

Canadian loses contracts in excess of £5m

From John Goodbody, Seoul

Ben Johnson will lose a minimum of £5 million as a result of the positive drug test at the Olympic Games. Companies who have signed the Canadian sprinter for endorsements have already started withdrawing from contracts. "He had his hands on the big time and he blew it," said Jean Claude Schubb, a spokesman in Seoul for Adidas. Adidas had a large contract with Johnson until he moved to Diadora, the Italian sportswear company, for £1 million over five years.

Johnson will immediately lose a £150,000 bonus he had been promised by Diadora if he took the Olympic title and set a world record, and also about £140,000 for a scheduled race against Carl Lewis in Tokyo on October 8.

Frequent appearances by an athlete capable of winning important races are vital for promotion. But as a result of being stripped of his Olympic title, several of the 13 companies with whom he had agreements have already been ended.

The companies include Times, the American watch maker, Johnson's Wax, Mazda Motors, Kyodo Oil, Toshiba, of Japan, Valio Dairy, in Finland, and a Johnson household company in Japan.

The reality of business was evident yesterday. A spokesman for Kyodo Oil, who had a one-year contract with the

sprinter, said: "We were jubilant when Johnson won a gold medal. But we are very shocked by the decision to suspend him." The company has immediately withdrawn its television commercial and magazine advertisements.

Kyodo said it would want a refund of part of the endorsement money it had paid Johnson and it had told television networks to stop broadcasting commercials showing his powerful running as a symbol of its gasoline. Valio said it was withdrawing a milk commercial featuring Johnson.

A spokesman for Johnson's Wax said that the incident had caused "serious damage" to the company's image, while Mazda has withdrawn from its contract to pay for its name on the Canadian's running vest.

But the banishment of Johnson will also harm Lewis because their duels generated enormous interest. In their meeting in Zurich last month, each man was paid an estimated £130,000.

Cindy Smith, a spokesman for Nike, which does not hold sportswear contracts with either athlete, said: "One needs the other to start the money rolling in. The pair were the biggest event of the Games and the largest draw at the athletics events. After Johnson's victory last Saturday, people swarmed out of the stadium, not caring to watch anything else."

MP starts project to counter drugs

By Nicholas Wood
Political Correspondent

An ambitious project to ensure that no British athlete becomes embroiled in the kind of drug scandal that has destroyed the career of Ben Johnson has been launched by a Conservative MP and a group of leading scientists.

The project, which is being championed by Andrew Hargreaves, Tory MP for Birmingham Hall Green, is intended to give athletes a natural, scientifically-applied alternative to drugs as a way of enhancing performance.

Yesterday, Hargreaves said that Johnson's demise suggested that the problem of drug abuse was bigger than previously suspected in the hothouse of international sport and cast a shadow over all those competing at Seoul.

It also highlighted the need for British athletes to be given "a recipe for success" that would prevent them succumbing to the temptations of the drug traffickers.

"We are trying to give them something that does improve form-enhancement without the use of steroids and other drugs and in which athletes for the next games will have sufficient confidence to say 'no to drug-taking,'" the MP said.

The SMART (Scientific and Medical Advice and Research

Briton next?

Roger Hackney, one of the British competitors in the steeplechase, who is a doctor specializing in sports medicine, told his sponsors in a telephone call yesterday that more competitors are expected to be revealed as drug cheats shortly. And he believes a leading Briton could be among them. But Hackney refused to discuss his suspicions in detail and would only comment: "There are rumours that other names will be disclosed as drug takers and there are rumours that a British athlete may be involved. But the team management does not know anything about it at the moment."

Techniques) project is designed to give selected athletes the benefit of close personal advice, monitoring and supervision by a team of experts. According to Hargreaves, who is seeking £250,000 of sponsorship for the first three years, the end result should be athletes with the "winning edge", unaided by drugs.

Hargreaves was speaking after the inaugural meeting of the 15-strong group, which contains physiologists familiar with the tests that exposed the gold medal winner's drug-taking.

In fact, there is an American Express advert running in all the right magazines in the States, which shows Louganis clad in a leotard. I have no doubt that Louganis will do nicely.

Nor can one begrudge it him in the slightest. True, he is the least bit smarmy, but let us put that down to the cultural divide. He won brilliantly, gracefully, spectacularly. On a day like Tuesday, it was something to be thankful for.

Star Britons combine to bring home a golden cargo

From Barry Pickthall
Pusan

Mike McIntyre and Bryn Vaile, Britain's two Star boat sailors who began their partnership less than a year ago, won the last race in the Olympic regatta yesterday and with it the gold medal.

It is the first time Britain has won a medal in this, one of the most competitive of the eight yachting classes, since Colin Ratsey and Peter Jaffe struck silver at the 1932 Games in Los Angeles. More remarkably, the two teamed up only last November for a class that can take a decade of experience to win. Yesterday's race was only their 28th together.

Yet they won it with ease, mastering survival conditions to leave five previous medal winners and two world champions far behind.

At the start of the day the British pair were lying fourth, itself a remarkable achievement, with bronze their most realistic goal. After starting in 15-knot winds and an average swell, the two soon had clear air and sailed a faultless first beat to round the weather mark second, close behind the Dutch.

Back in seventh place, Mark Reynolds and Hal Haemel, the American fleet leaders, appeared more concerned about covering the second-placed Brazilians rather than the boats ahead.

Not that the leaders were doing things right either, for the Dutch set off for the wrong mark, leading McIntyre and the rest of the fleet with them. "I kicked myself for not checking the compass when we first bore away," McIntyre admitted afterwards. Luckily, he was one of the first to spot the correct mark and lost only two places as they gybed, while the Americans dropped to twelfth.

McIntyre worked himself back into second place during the next beat as the wind and waves built up, knocking out first the Canadians who had been holding them, and then the Americans, when their rig crumpled in half.

With the prospect of gold suddenly in sight, the British pair slid down the waves in a welter of spray on the final

YACHTING MEDALS

	G	S	B	Total
France	1	1	1	3
United States	1	1	1	3
New Zealand	1	1	1	3
Denmark	1	1	1	3
East Germany	1	1	1	3
Great Britain	1	1	1	3
Spain	1	1	1	3
Soviet Union	1	1	1	3
West Germany	1	1	1	3
Norway	1	1	1	3
Sweden	1	1	1	3
Virgin Islands	1	1	1	3
British Columbia	1	1	1	3

run, catching sight of the Brazilians, now their only threat, struggling back in 14th place.

The two now had only to hold up to the finish to clinch the victory of a lifetime. In fact they did much better, beating off a strong challenge from Australia's Colin Beasly to lead across the line and chalk-up their second win in the series. Reynolds was left with the silver and the Brazilians, who ended the day eighth, took the bronze.

Hopes of other medals in the Finn and Soling classes faded when Stuart Childerley finished sixth in the single-handed event and Lawrie Smith and his crew rounded the first mark eighteenth, recovered to thirteenth during the first reach, then lost all they had gained during a brooch on the second spinnaker leg. Both ended the series fourth in class. The Soling gold went to Joachim Schuermann, from East Germany, while the Spaniard, José Dorreste won the honours in the Finn event.

In the 470 classes Britain's representatives, Debbie Jarvis and Sue Hay and Jason Belben and Andrew Hemmings, both finished fifteenth overall.

New Zealand's former Toronto gold medal winners, Chris Timms and Rex Sellers, had to be content with a silver this time, leaving the Brazilians, Lars Graef and Clinio Freitas, to pick up the bronze. Britain's Rob White and Jeremy Newman ended the week in eighth place, despite finishing third yesterday.

The remaining medals in the Flying Dutchman class went to Norway and Canada, with Britain's Roger Yeoman and Neal McDonald finishing sixth. Simon Goody produced a personal best with a placing of fifteenth in the sailboard class.



No small beer: Michael McIntyre (left) and Bryn Vaile celebrate their yachting gold medal

Brown wakes up for bronze

From Steven Downes
Seoul

Kerrith Brown woke up from a nightmare lightweight semi-final yesterday to win his second judo bronze medal.

Brown, one of Mac Abbott's squad from Wolverhampton, had gone into his semi-final against Sven Loh, of East Germany, with high hopes of improving on his third place in the Los Angeles Games, despite struggling to protect an injured knee which has been troubling him since an operation in May.

"He's not fighting well at all," Abbott said, ominously, before the semi-final. The contest lasted little more than a minute. "I felt confident," Brown said, "but there was a clash early on, confusion, and I lost concentration." He lost by an ippon.

He had to wait 30 minutes for the contest for the bronze medal, against the winner of the repechage. "I was absolutely shattered, so I went away and had a sleep."

Abbott roused him with the words: "It's yours, go and take it," after seeing the world champion, Michael Swain, another who was surprisingly defeated by Loh, emerge as the obstacle to another medal.

When he returned to the mat, Brown showed much more fire. With his opponent tired and demoralized, Brown, for once, was dominant. Abbott, consoled by the bronze, said: "He's got a habit of beating the world champion at the wrong time. If he'd fought like that in his previous fight he would have won."

Louganis shines bright on Seoul's day of gloom

From Simon Barnes
Seoul

Ben Johnson was in his aeroplane at the time, pondering on the horrors of life. Back on the ground in Seoul, people were throwing up their hands and despairing about the future of the Olympic movement in the wake of the scandal.

It was a day of disgrace, horror and shame. But in one small corner, it was possible to find honour, glory, grace and grace. It was a place where people were saying: surely, with Johnson disgraced, this is the man of the Olympics, the true Olympian, the real hero of the Games.

The place was the Olympic diving pool, and the man was Greg Louganis. He is Ameri-

can, so he calls himself Louganis. He needed three stitches in the wound, refused pain-killers, for fear they would affect his balance and then, serene and untroubled as you please, he won his first gold.

Louganis wants to be a film star. Well, he would, wouldn't he? In the platform final on Tuesday morning - just right for American prime-time TV - one wondered about the script he was acting out. Louganis is 28, and this is his last international competition.

Going into the last round, he was three points behind a 14-year-old boy from China, the amazing Xiong Ni. Xiong went first and threw in a real beauty, a dive that put Louganis out of contention, or

so he thought. Louganis stepped on to the platform. "I thought, well, whatever happens, my mother will still love me," he said afterwards. He stood poised, in the crucifix position, to take his farewell dive, and it was an absolute cracker. Rip entry, as American jargon has it. He won the gold by 1.14 points by as small a margin as you could wish.

Thus ended three hours of enthralling competition. Louganis said of the 14-year-old: "He is so talented, so tough to beat. I'm really looking forward to watching his growth and development."

Xiong said: "It is an honour to compete with Greg Louganis. I am proud to stand

beside him. He has always been my idol." With wonderful sport and immaculate sportsmanship, it was just like being at the Olympic Games, if you see what I mean.

And now Louganis heads for the world of films. This has been an extraordinary two weeks for him. For a start, he has spent most of the time in his room, a lot of it nursing his sore head. "I've been kind of hard on myself since I've been here," he said. He hates to watch the Games on television because seeing all those medals being won makes him restless. He doesn't like walking about the village because he gets "mobbed". He has mostly sat about by himself

talking film scripts: there is talk of him playing a gigolo, and naturally there is talk about a remake of Tarzan: Louganis in the paw-prints of that other Olympian, Johnny Weissmuller.

In fact, there is an American Express advert running in all the right magazines in the States, which shows Louganis clad in a leotard. I have no doubt that Louganis will do nicely.

Nor can one begrudge it him in the slightest. True, he is the least bit smarmy, but let us put that down to the cultural divide. He won brilliantly, gracefully, spectacularly. On a day like Tuesday, it was something to be thankful for.

TCCB still dragging its feet over tour

By Alan Lee, Cricket Correspondent

The exasperating game of political ping pong over who will call off England's sabotaged tour of India has still not been resolved, following another inconclusive shot played yesterday by the Test and County Cricket Board.

Given that the hard facts of the situation have created deadlock and that neither side has any room, or inclination, to compromise, it was difficult to conceive that the English authorities could again knock the ball over the net to their Indian counterparts. Somehow, they have managed it.

The TCCB's decision-makers, the executive committee, met yesterday with everyone in the game assuming it would do the decent thing and put us out of our misery. Instead, it

came up with a statement which prolonged the inevitable by giving the Indian Board yet more time to back down on the issue of visas to the eight black-listed England players.

As the Indian cricket authorities are in no position to defy their government, whose stand on the matter is intransigent, the tour is effectively off, the first to be cancelled for political reasons since 1969.

Indeed, one could say this has been the case for the past three weeks and yet, such is the current sensitivity of cricketing politics, no one has been prepared to say so.

The Board's statement did, at least, leave little doubt about its own determination and made it plain that the tour will not last another week. It read:

"In view of the conditions on the issue of visas imposed by the Indian government and supported by the Board of Control for Cricket in India we regret that unless the BCCI can resolve the problem forthwith, we must deem that they have withdrawn the invitation to tour as visas are not available to all members of the selected touring team. This message has been relayed to the BCCI by telex and a response requested by not later than noon on October 3."

Alan Smith, chief executive of the TCCB, said: "It is certainly not indicating any optimism. But we are in the business of playing cricket and if India can find some solution - which, at the moment, we

cannot envisage - then all well and good. It is India who are changing all the precedents so far as a selection of a touring team is concerned."

Doubtless the TCCB has a reason for such prevarication and one can hazard a guess that the issue of compensation is high on the list. If they are seen to be calling off the trip, there would presumably be no case for the Indians to answer on the touchy matter of the guaranteed payment.

The TCCB must know, however, that the country as a whole is heartily sick of the saga. The sooner a final decision is taken, the better. All concerned, even if alternative cricket for the tour party does, as expected, prove impossible to find.

More cricket, page 43

End of the Bluebird

This week's 4-litre world powerboat championship race may mark the end of the legendary Bluebird tradition. Gina, the daughter of Donald Campbell said she is likely to quit Britain and powerboat racing if she wins.

"You can't keep racing and racing," she said. "It's a circus and I'd like to get off. I want to finish on a job setting up a marina in the south of France I'd be off like a shot."

Miller's post

Syd Millar, the former Irish rugby international, has been appointed chairman of the Northern Ireland Sports Council.

Ford goes

Cardiff rugby club have been accused of poaching a player for the second time this season following the return of the wing, Steve Ford. Cardiff were accused last month of poaching the Swansea prop, David Young.

Big hit

Britain's biggest indoor tennis centre, with 44 courts and costing £1,250,000, is to be built in Nottingham.

In demand

Hampshire have joined the chase for the England fast bowler, Greg Thomas, who has refused a contract with Glamorgan. Thomas is also interesting Nottinghamshire, Worcestershire and Essex.

American 800 metres runner held by police

Johnny Gray, the American 800 metres runner, was arrested for being drunk and disorderly in Paeon, the Soho of Seoul, last night (Pat Butcher writes). Gray, who finished fifth in the 800 metres final the previous day, was wandering in the middle of the road when, provoked by a passing car, he ran after it and repeatedly kicked the driver's door.

He was arrested, and taken to the local police station, which is staffed by South Korean police and United States military police, on account of the number of American servicemen, based in Korea, who frequent the area. The matter was being investigated by the US Consul.

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